

*Agricultural Subsidies*

them achieve their full potential. Later on, we will be in a better position to determine which resources we might allocate to maintain the lead we will have gained over our competitors through this positive and constructive investment. The fierce fight and competition on the export markets will be all the more beneficial to us if we are on solid ground to defend our positions.

[English]

**Mr. de Jong:** Would the Hon. Member allow a question, Mr. Speaker?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** The Hon. Member had time left from his allocated time.

[Translation]

Would the Parliamentary Secretary entertain a question?

**Mr. Dionne (Chicoutimi):** No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I am sorry, the answer is no.

**Mr. McCain:** Mr. Speaker, I am rather disappointed that the last speaker would not accept a question. It seemed to me that he is in favour of passage of this motion. I wish that could be determined, because if he is in favour of it—I ask that question but I also want to address the subject matter and I do not want to get the two confused—then there is very little reason for our continuing debate. If he is so prepared and Hon. Members on your right are prepared to have the motion pass, I am sure that Members on this side are prepared to support it and debate could be ended forthwith. I hope I might make that as a point of order to be followed by my remarks.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** This is an unusual situation. I am not sure what the Hon. Member seeks to achieve.

**Mr. McCain:** Is he ready to let the motion go through?

**Mr. Daudlin:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might speak to this point.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** Let it be understood that I recognized the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte (Mr. McCain) to make a speech. If he now sits down, I presume he has terminated his remarks and I would have to go to another Hon. Member.

**Mr. McCain:** I sat down out of respect for your rising, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** I am still standing and the Hon. Member is addressing the Chair.

Let me clear the situation up. I respect the fact that the Hon. Member was trying to make a suggestion by way of a point of order. Normally the Chair is prepared to recognize that and allow the Parliamentary Secretary an opportunity to

respond if he so pleases; if not, I would invite the Hon. Member to continue his remarks if he wishes.

**Mr. McCain:** Mr. Speaker, I have to take that as a suggestion that the Government is not prepared to put these papers on the desk.

**Mr. Daudlin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would have risen to respond to the point of order had my hon. friend wanted to speak to that. There might have been some substantive reason for doing so, but instead he got himself into difficulty about whether he wanted to continue his speech. He has chosen to continue.

I now rise on a point of order which I think is valid, because he now imputes motives to Members on your right by reason of the fact that neither the Hon. Member nor anyone else on this side has risen to respond to a point of order that was never raised. If he chooses to do so, I respectfully suggest to the Chair that it would be contrary to the rules of order of the House and ought not to be permitted. We cannot have imputed motives. He may have made a judgment in his own mind of what may or may not be meant by a certain action but I suggest it cannot be expressed in those terms here.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I recognize the difficulty the Chair is in. A suggestion was made by the Hon. Member from the Official Opposition that if Members of the Government were in favour, the item be allowed to go to a vote. Your Honour could not allow debate and discussion on that point. Perhaps the way out of the difficulty is for Government Members to nod their heads indicating yes or no. In this way we would get the necessary indication and could allow the Member of the Official Opposition to proceed with his speech or allow the question to go to a vote. If Hon. Members opposite would just nod their heads, we could proceed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin):** We do not proceed in this House by nodding our heads; there has to be an audible yes or no or some remark.

First of all, the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte did not make a formal motion which was duly seconded. He rose on a point of order, which is perfectly legitimate, at the beginning of his remarks. The Parliamentary Secretary chose not to respond. At that point I thought I had made myself very clear, that either the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte continue his remarks or I see another Member from any side of the House who wanted to speak.

I accept the point raised by the Hon. Member for Essex-Kent (Mr. Daudlin) at face value. Unfortunately, the Chair did not hear the remarks uttered by the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte. At this point I would respectfully suggest that, of course, tradition forbids an Hon. Member from imputing motive.

I think debate should be allowed to continue at this point and I invite the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte to do so.