

Business of the House

I have my doubts whether the provision will have any serious effect on the banks' willingness to participate in the program. I am sure that all Hon. Members of the House, regardless of what side they occupy, would like to see Canada's chartered banks participate to a greater degree in the Farm Improvement Loans Act. We encourage them to participate. Because this Bill has some new provisions, it is expanded, enhanced and its availability will be greatly improved, particularly on the co-operative side. We will be doing a little more advertising than has been done in the past. Hopefully that will overcome any shortfall or any reluctance which the banks might have. But would they prefer 100 per cent? Sure they would, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Chairman, I have a point of order with respect to Private Members' Hour. I think it would be appropriate to do it now before we get to the hour of six o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: I will leave the Chair now and report progress.

Progress reported.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, we are making good progress this evening. We still have Bills C-62, C-70, C-83 and C-64, all of which we have had agreement on among the House Leaders and which will be proceeded with this evening. It is my understanding that the Hon. Member who was scheduled to have a Private Members' Hour today has notified the Table that he will be unable to participate. Subsequent to discussions that we have had among the Parties, Mr. Speaker, you will find there is unanimous consent that notwithstanding any other standing order, that the House not now proceed with Private Members' Hour today in order to allow for the continuation of business.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, we are certainly prepared to agree to dispense with Private Members' Hour. I do want to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader (Mr. Lewis) a question with respect to Bill C-71, the legislation which would facilitate the prosecution in Canada of war criminals, including those who have evaded justice for many years.

As I understand it, this Bill has the support of all Parties in the House. Is the Parliamentary Secretary prepared to accept the offer which I know that my House Leader has made on behalf of our caucus, and I believe has been made as well by the House Leader on behalf of the Liberal Party caucus, that we proceed with this legislation through all stages in the House today? We are prepared to move forward on this legislation, to adopt it in the House, to deal with it in Committee of the

Whole and to waive the requirement that it be dealt with in a legislative committee.

Is the Parliamentary Secretary prepared to accept that offer so that the long overdue inaction of a succession of governments on this fundamental question of justice can finally be dealt with?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before I do anything else, I must cancel the Private Members' Hour. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, very briefly on the point of order, I take it that the Table has done its utmost to try to find a replacement for the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Dorin) whose hour it was today. I take it that we will be protecting future Members' use of this hour by exercising all measures and expediency to try to replace those people who cannot for reasons, which can be understood, be here to exercise their rights to use their hour.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will take that as given. Private Members' Hour is cancelled by consent. I will now recognize the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Lewis).

● (1800)

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I was choosing my words as carefully as I could when I indicated that there was agreement among House Leaders that Bills C-62, C-70, C-83 and C-84 would proceed, time permitting. One would hope that we could expedite matters and get through not only the Bill which is presently in Committee of the Whole House but also those items.

I would tell my hon. friend that I have every intention of proceeding thereafter on things on which we do not have complete agreement and those are Bill S-6, Bill C-51 and Bill C-71 in that order. We have every intention of reaching them. The only constraint I have is time. One will appreciate that we are all trying to co-operate and deal with the items of business as expeditiously as possible. That means sharing the time available among those who wish to participate in the items of legislation to which I have referred.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. On behalf of my Party, I would like to say that we are willing to deal with Bill C-71 this afternoon through all stages, depending upon the mood and the will of members of other Parties. As far as we are concerned, we would like to see this Bill go through and we will co-operate by trying to pass it through all stages this afternoon. I am sure my hon. colleague from York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) would be in agreement with that.

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I heard the Hon. Member from the New Democratic Party and the Hon. Member from the Liberal Party suggesting that you