

*Point of Order—Mr. Clark*

● (1520)

**Some hon. Members:** What is the rush?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Hon. members opposite are already saying, "What is the rush?" I remind the House that there was opposition from that side to the date of December 9—

**Mr. Andre:** To any date.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —and we had to use unilateral closure to get agreement on that date.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Today there is no closure; there is voluntary consent to that date by all parties in the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** With a caveat.

**Mr. Trudeau:** It should be on the record that we have not forced this date on the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition. As I understand it from both the NDP House leader and our House leader, it was a date which they suggested and to which we agreed. Therefore, let it be on the record that there is no closure imposed. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to have second thoughts and say that this is a date he only agrees to on condition, that he does not want the further date—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Andre:** We said it before you voted.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —then let him withdraw the consent, let us debate it again, or let us just say that no agreement is possible. That is our view, and I appeal to the New Democratic Party to state right now in the House that that is equally its view—

**Some hon. Members:** Don't worry about them.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —that it is a negotiated date which has been agreed to freely by the opposition parties.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Baloney.

**Mr. Trudeau:** This kind of howling from the Tory party does not suit the House at a time when we are—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** —today agreeing to the—

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —very date they suggested. I repeat that we do not see this as an imposition of a date upon them. We see them as freely accepting this date, and if they do not freely accept it, the time to say it is now, not next February.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I want to make it very clear, if there is any doubt at all, where we stand on this issue. We, along with the official opposition, felt very strongly about the extension of time. The government knows that through private negotiations involving the House leaders of all parties.

To understate it considerably, we have not been in agreement with the way the government has handled all proceedings of the committee, but I think an agreement was entered into in good faith by all House leaders to provide Canadians reasonably good access to present their views. When we in this party enter an agreement, we intend to keep it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, the country knows full well the degree to which the NDP intends to keep the agreements into which it enters with the Liberal party.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** This matter need not detain the House any longer. Two things are clear. First, the House has voted on a reporting date of February 6, offered without condition by the government House leader, to quote his language, and second, the caveat expressed on behalf of my party by myself and the deputy House leader of the official opposition that if the people of Canada have not been adequately heard by February 6, we will put pressure upon the government to extend the date just as we put pressure upon the government to extend the date of December 9 when they tried, in our view, to muzzle the rights of the people of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**PRIVILEGE**

MR. CROUSE—STATEMENT MADE BY MR. LEBLANC DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, yesterday after I left the House the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) raised a question of privilege. I wish to reply to the question of privilege by saying at the outset that I sincerely regret any misunderstanding of my remarks in the House yesterday which could have suggested to the hon. member any reference to conflict of interest.

The hon. member and myself have had this type of exchange before.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Would those members who want to have conversations with their colleagues please do so in the lobby so that the House can hear the hon. minister.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know the hon. member represents many large fishing vessel crews, and he