

Business of the House

do not see how the last remarks of the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) can be related to the two motions we have before us. He has referred to a completely different motion, one which might have been brought up during the debate. That motion did not relate at all to the debate upon which we are now engaged, and the Chair feels that at this time the hon. member should direct his remarks to the motions before us.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to abide by your ruling and admonition. Even though I might have been slightly out of order, I was right on the point.

Perhaps I should indicate at the outset that I intend to move an amendment to the amendment presently before us. I shall do so for the sake of greater clarity. This will provide hon. members of the House who have already spoken in the debate, and who have had a great deal to say, an opportunity to respond to some of the erroneous views which members on the Liberal benches have put forward.

The amendment I should like to place before you, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is as follows:

That the amendment be amended by deleting all the words after "deduction" and substituting therefor the following: "of the amount by which the costs of production for the crop year within which a levy under section 9 is deducted exceeds the cost of production for the crop year ending on July 31, 1970."

The purpose is very simple. It is to insert a base year upon which to measure increased costs of production. We felt that without this sort of clarification the amendment would have left wide open the question just what was meant by increased costs of production. Increased compared to what? The sub-amendment specifies a particular year. That would be the base, and the increased costs of production would be the increase over and above the costs in that particular year. The intention is to provide clarity.

When the debate resumes, I am sure I shall have an opportunity to expand upon the merits of the amendment I have just moved and perhaps to deal also with the major objection which every farmer and farm organization I know has raised to this piece of legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member for Skeena is probably aware that it is now six o'clock. The

Chair would appreciate it if the hon. member would not expect an immediate decision on this motion. It is an amendment to a motion amending a clause in a complicated bill, and perhaps the Chair might be given an opportunity to consider its procedural acceptability. I should like to look further into the matter.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Might I ask the leader of the House what the business is to be for Friday, and for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week? We know what has been proposed for tomorrow. I ask this so that hon. members can prepare themselves in such a way as to facilitate the passage of whatever good legislation the government might be able to bring forward.

Mr. MacEachen: I appreciate the interest of the hon. member. My dilemma is not unlike his. There are so many competing items of priority legislation that it might be difficult to choose among them.

The Minister of Justice mentioned today that we would, hopefully, arrange to deal with the Judges' Act on Friday afternoon. Subject to confirmation tomorrow, we shall call the Employment Support Act on orders of the day on Friday, then the Judges' Act and the tax bill. I am not quite certain when I can call the agriculture stabilization bill again.

An hon. Member: Don't bother.

Mr. MacEachen: I shall tell the hon. gentleman as soon as a decision is made.

• (6:00 p.m.)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Was the hon. member for Skeena rising on a point of order?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): No, Mr. Speaker; I was just going to say that I have complete confidence that Your Honour will make a favourable ruling on the sub-amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): The hon. member should not prejudge the issue. It being six o'clock, the House will stand adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.