

Point of Order—Mr. Hnatyshyn

by dragging it into the open and making a big issue of it. So why is the destroying the opportunity for future consultations by going through this charade? I do not understand. I respect the Hon. Member and I respect the process, but I do not know why he is trying to damage it now.

• (1420)

An Hon. Member: Why don't you bring the Bill in, if it is so good?

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, in over 40 years in legislatures and three years here, I have never seen anything so ridiculous. The Government is being completely hypocritical. It says that it wants to introduce the Bill and proceed with it, but it refuses to introduce it. The Minister tells the Member to make the copies available; however, the Government will not make the copies available. What is the Government trying to pull off, anyway? Hon. Members opposite stand up and say a bunch of baloney, such as we just heard from the Hon. Member for Mississauga North (Mr. Fisher). If the Government does not want the Bill introduced, why does it not say so instead of being so blatantly hypocritical?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Let's get copies of the Bill. That is all we want.

Mr. Fisher: We don't have to do anything.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I detect on the other side of the House a great enthusiasm for me to speak on this issue once more. To be very brief, I will make inquiries on behalf of Hon. Members opposite with the Minister of Justice and perhaps we can resolve this matter.

I would like to say, however, that the Minister of Justice is acting in good faith. Perhaps there is a misunderstanding on this point but, as Your Honour knows, I have been the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Disabled and Handicapped and, as a result, I have had a number of conversations over several months with the Minister. Quite frankly, I want to assure Hon. Members opposite that he has always dealt with me in good faith. I regret that there appears to have been some misunderstanding which has developed. I will make inquiries of him and hopefully we can resolve this matter.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise an issue with regard to this proposed Bill. I know the Parliamentary Secretary has said that he will make inquiries as to how it can be reproduced, but I want to advise him that I have just received a call from the Chairman of the organization for the handicapped in my constituency who has been following this matter and has asked me, as a Member of Parliament, to bring with me a copy of the Bill when I return to Kingston later today, as members of that organization would like to see it. I would like to know that, when I receive a copy of this Bill, I will not be bound by any restriction preventing me from showing it to those people whom it will so deeply affect. I would like the assurance that when this business of reproduction has been straightened out

as far as the Bill is concerned, I will be in no way abusing any kind of privilege which might be extended to me as a Member of Parliament if I show this Bill to the organization for the handicapped in my constituency over the weekend.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of rising again, but this Bill is now being placed in jeopardy, there is no question about that. Whether or not this Bill passes will, to some extent at least, and I think to a great extent, be determined by the atmosphere which exists in the House. There is no way in which I or anyone else can do anything about what the Official Opposition does, but I want to put it to the Government that if it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation dealing with the Human Rights Code which will benefit the disabled and women in some way, I say to the Government put it out now. Introduce it.

Mr. Fisher: What if it could be improved?

Mr. Wilson: What is Parliament for?

Mr. Deans: I heard an interjection from an Hon. Member who asked, quite legitimately, "What if the Bill could be improved?" Mr. Speaker, you know, as I know, that that is what the parliamentary process is all about.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: I put it to the Government that that legislation will receive approval in principle if the Government introduces it for first reading now. If there is any improvement to be made, it can be made in committee. We are prepared to have the Bill sent to committee on Monday. We are prepared to have the Bill dealt with in the House on Wednesday. If this is important legislation, and I happen to think it is, and if providing the kind of protection which these amendments would provide is something that we in the House of Commons would want to see, then please, for God's sake, stop this game playing and introduce the Bill.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for me to respond. I am not in a position to move the Bill, obviously. However, as soon as this debate is resolved I will have a discussion with the Minister of Justice. I would confirm what the House Leader for the NDP has said, that in fact not only did the official critic for the Conservative Party have a copy of this Bill, but the NDP critic had one, too. Quite frankly, they were quite co-operative and agreed that it could go into committee. For reasons I will not go into, this was not possible with the Official Opposition. However, I will make inquiries and see to what extent we can resolve this matter.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I would make a further comment or observation for your edification or for that of the Parliamentary Secretary. For many years, a number of us in this Chamber have felt that the practice of acceptance of first reading and referral of subject matter, which, in essence, is the content of the Bill, at first reading prior to its being dealt with in principle at second reading, was the most useful course of action for this Chamber to take.