

Business of the House

heard, in a question today posed by one Conservative Member, although I cannot recall which one, of the dilemma confronting Allan Wilford, the President of the Farm Survival Association. Mr. Wilford is quite rightly demonstrating against the banks' usurious actions.

I wonder if the President of the Privy Council would indicate to the House whether he would be considering calling either Bill C-653, which is an amendment to the Farm Credit Arrangements Act, for debate in the House of Commons in committee, or whether he would consider sending it to a standing committee for consideration. Given the fact that it is a Private Members' Bill, would he perhaps consider bringing forward a Government Bill which would accommodate the same desires?

If he were to do any one of those three things, I want to assure him, at least on behalf of the Hon. Members of this Party, that we would be prepared to deal with the matter expeditiously.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I am told that a friend of the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) has been charged with theft before the courts in Ontario, and my learned friend will understand that I do not intend to comment on matters that are *sub judice*.

[English]

Mr. Deans: I am not interested in whether the President of the Privy Council can answer whether he is stealing or not. That is not the issue. The contents of the Private Members' Bill would resolve a very difficult problem for a large number of farmers, particularly in Ontario but in other parts of the country as well. Is the Government prepared to have that Bill called or is it prepared to duplicate it with a Government Bill? I want to assure him, and I think I am speaking on behalf of all Hon. Members, that if the Government were to proceed with this Bill or with another similar Bill, we would guarantee dealing with it as expeditiously as humanly possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, if only I could say that past experience has shown the Hon. Member is indeed able to deliver the goods when he guarantees support for a Bill. Unfortunately, we have had some negative experiences in the past involving both the Progressive Conservatives and the New Democratic Party. In the circumstances, if the Hon. Member has any proposals to make regarding legislation on sports pools, agriculture, income tax which bill is very urgent or on the Borrowing Authority Bill which is also very important and very urgent, if the Hon. Member has any definite proposals to make with respect to these bills, I feel that the appropriate place to discuss the issue is at our meetings of Parliamentary House Leaders, and I am very receptive to any suggestions aimed at accelerating the legislative process in this country.

[English]

Mr. Wise: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order directed to the comments made by the President of the Privy Council with reference to House business. I would ask a question supplementary to those raised earlier during the Question Period by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Bruce-Grey and also by the House Leader for the NDP.

I simply want to be clear on the Government's position with regard to the Private Members' Bill, the bankruptcy Bill or a new piece of legislation dealing with the specific subject. It is my understanding, after listening to the explanations, that the Government House Leader indeed has no intention whatsoever of moving in this area, either through separate legislation on behalf of the Government, the Government's own Private Member's Bill, or through similar amendments to the Bankruptcy Act through Bill C-12. Am I right or am I wrong?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I rise on the same point of order, Madam Speaker. The House and the Government House Leader will know, and certainly the Hon. Member for Lambton-Middlesex (Mr. Ferguson) will know, that when this matter came before the House before I gave an assurance that if the Government were to allow the introduction of the Bill of the Hon. Member for Lambton-Middlesex, I would be very pleased to second it. So the ball is very much in the Government House Leader's court with respect to bringing forth that legislation. It would be of great assistance to Canadian farmers.

Mr. Nielsen: As well as Bill C-95.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, I do not want to belabour the point, but I do want to make one other suggestion, if I may, for consideration. The Government House Leader quite correctly said that this is a matter which we should perhaps negotiate. I am, of course, prepared to negotiate on any matter at any time. However, this matter is serious inasmuch as it will directly affect an individual who has chosen the only course which apparently, in his mind, is open to him to try to get the Government to move. Would the Government House Leader be prepared to meet this afternoon to discuss some way of resolving this particular matter?

• (1510)

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, an Hon. Member asked me whether he had understood correctly. I think what I said was quite clear. He can check in *Hansard*. If he does not understand, there are others who will. My answer was very simple, clear and complete. As far as the offer made by the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) is concerned, it is only a partial one in that it only indicates his intention of seconding the Bill, and we have no guarantee that the Bill will be concurred in without debate. I would like further explanations from the Hon. Member for Elgin (Mr. Wise) regarding amendments he would like to make for the same purpose.