

Supply

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Point of order!

An Hon. Member: Sit down, Ray!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) on a point of order.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the point of order, I was in the middle of making a few comments. I have been interrupted twice by a very sensitive NDP member. I wanted to conclude by asking a question of my colleague, but I have not been able to make any comments or to ask a question because the New Democratic party is preventing me from having my say on the floor of the House of Commons.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, he rose on a point of order. Is that a point of order?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Those Hon. Members refuse to allow me the courtesy to make a comment. I was recognized—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. Can I ask the two Hon. Members who are standing and talking at the same time to sit down, please? The Chair will recognize the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West who is trying to make a point of order.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: All I was saying is that, if you will recall, I started off with my comments and was interrupted twice on points of order. I just feel that I should not be prevented from carrying on because someone from Skeena does not believe in free speech on the floor of the House of Commons. I feel I should be entitled to finish my comments—

Mr. Fulton: We just get tired of Tory drivels.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: —and ask a question of my colleague. Is that permissible?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Is the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West finally going to get to his question? That would certainly help the Chair. The question period is coming to an end as well.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: On the comment and question period, I want to simply ask—

Mr. Kristiansen: Is he on a point of order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: —a question in this context. We know that the New Democratic Party has been holding up the presentation of Bill C-34 on the floor of the House of Commons, notwithstanding what those Hon. Members say to the CLC or if they are pretending to come forward with a notice of motion, for which they are unprepared. I simply want to ask my colleague, the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West, is it not the position of our Party, which was stated by our Leader and by the labour critic for our Party, the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley West, that we are prepared to deal with this matter? Is it not the case that the Conservative Party has been pressing to have this matter dealt with so that we can in fact address the

issues in question? Have we not asked on a number of occasions why this Bill has not come forward? Have there not been a number of Conservatives asking on behalf of our Party where the Bill is dealing with the Canada Labour Code? Would the Hon. Member be able to address himself to the question of why we have taken the lead on behalf of the workers of Canada, as opposed to the New Democratic Party which has done everything it can to prevent the legislation coming before the House and is playing petty politics with this particular Bill?

Mr. Wenman: In answering the question, I will say that I am willing to sit in the committee and hear—in a democratic manner, I might add, Mr. Speaker—those who want to be heard on this debate. I will start any day it is wished to have those hearings. Let us get on with it and hear what the people of Canada have to say about this legislation in a democratic way. Then we can possibly come to a conclusion.

If the Government decides to let the House of Commons go on long enough, if it decides to give enough commitment to the workers of Canada in order to allow for as much debate as possible in the House of Commons—because that is good and in the interests of democracy and the workers of Canada—and if it allows as much time as possible in committee so we can have our hearings, then I say that I am certainly willing to attend those meetings, to speak and participate in those meetings—as many as the Government wishes to have and for as long a period as it wishes. Then when it is brought to a conclusion, it will be brought to a conclusion in the House of Commons through negotiations of our House Leaders and not through motions which are out of order.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: And petty politics.

Mr. Wenman: And not play petty politics in the House of Commons. Let us get on with the job. Let us talk about the workers of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Resuming debate, the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy).

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we presented a motion on this very important matter, not only today but last week, is that we recognize that this is a matter of very strong importance to the working people of Canada. We are not playing political games by bringing this motion forward. As a Party, over four years ago we set up a task force which toured right throughout this country from one end to the other. We went into the work sites and talked with the workers and management. We talked about the problems with the present Canada Labour Code.

The reason we took that route, Mr. Speaker, was that we recognized that the present Canada Labour Code, especially Part IV of that Code, did not provide adequate protection for the workers who come under federal jurisdiction. We also recognized that there were a number of workers who worked for the Government itself; those on the rail lines, those who