

Income Tax

Another thing I want to draw to the attention of the House is this. Last year they moved, for a portion of my constituency, the postal address and postal station for income tax. It was taken to Sudbury. I think we have a very effective Minister in Sudbury and probably 500 employees look very nice in his community, but my people, which number many thousands, were always used to sending their income tax returns to Belleville. Why was this done? Was this a cost sharing program by the Government or was it some more of this rank patronage that exists within the ranks of this Government here today? This is just another case where dollars and cents could have been saved and a small portion would have been withdrawn from the backs of the taxpayers, the small-businessmen, the labour community and the farmers within our country. But this goes on. How can we have any sympathy for a Government which carries on practices like this? It is time that the people of Canada woke up and said, "We have had enough of this."

I hope that the Minister will pay some attention to these remarks coming from this side of the House. I notice that it is the Members of the Conservative Party who are standing up here and preaching for the people in need today. We do not hear too much from the other Parties, only the odd interjection. This is what is taking time and costing the Government money. Let us get on with the business of the country and bring out sane and sound legislation.

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, just now, I made an offer to the Opposition parties to find out whether they were acting in good faith and whether they were really interested in working productively in Parliament, and also whether they were prepared to give unanimous consent for the House to work a little harder than usual by sitting after six o'clock—under the New Standing Orders, we are not obliged to sit evenings—because the Bill now before the House is particularly important and urgent. A number of Progressive Conservative Members have already spoken, in turn, to the Bill, and if they were really anxious to have this legislation passed, they would agree to sit a little later than six o'clock to have the second reading stage concurred in. In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, if Hon. Members are prepared to listen to my offer to the Progressive Conservative Party, and if they are really anxious to see Parliament function . . . Mr. Speaker, I think I should be given an opportunity to speak. The Opposition Whip is baying like a bloodhound to stop me from having my say.

● (1750)

[English]

I may, if the Hon. Member wants to hear me, express myself in his language.

[Translation]

Here is my proposal to the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. I do not intend to present a motion. I do not intend to oblige Hon. Members to muster twenty-five votes against a motion I could present under the new Standing Orders. I am asking them to show the Canadian people whether they really want tax refunds to be made as soon as possible, and they can speed up the process by accepting—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Hon. President of the Privy Council intend to present a motion? What does he intend to do right now?

Mr. Pinard: An interesting question, Mr. Speaker, and I am going to answer it right away. I intend to repeat what I have just said. Before you asked the question, I had just finished explaining that I did not intend to present a motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I shall repeat the question. Is the Hon. Minister raising a point of order?

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take part in the debate. I believe I am entitled to ten minutes, and if I am not allowed to speak, I shall sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In that case, the Hon. Minister has the floor.

Mr. Pinard: First of all, on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the unanimous consent of the House to sit after six o'clock, in order to give Progressive Conservative Members an opportunity to continue debate on second reading and subsequently refer the Bill to a Committee of the Whole House.

I am therefore asking formally, on a point of order, for the unanimous consent of the House to sit after the usual time of adjournment and complete second reading of the Bill this evening, so that Canadians can receive their tax refunds as soon as possible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The President of the Privy Council has asked for the unanimous consent of the House to sit after six o'clock this evening.

Is there unanimous consent, yes or no?

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in reply to a suggestion of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard). I would point out that we have organized our debate to have speakers here today. We have other Members who may wish to speak on the next occasion the President of the Privy Council deems to call this Bill, which he claims we are stalling. We have the speakers. Those opposite do not seem prepared to support the Bill at this stage. I am afraid we cannot give unanimous consent.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, there are one or two points that I want to deal with during the course of the debate. One has to do with the lack of provision—