

mation. Question No. 3, also in the name of the Member for Mackenzie, asks about contributions toward crop and drought payments. Again, that is something about which the Government has the information. We are not talking about something that requires a lot research, or about something that is new. The Government has that information.

If it were a complicated issue, and something that required a lot of research, I can understand the Government having a problem answering the questions within 45 days. However, for the sake of parliamentary reform, I believe that since we indicated when we put these questions on the Order Paper on April 3 that we wanted the information within 45 days, the Parliamentary Secretary and the Ministers, since there are 40 of them, could provide the information to the House.

I am almost tempted to go through each of the questions at this point and indicate that since we asked for the information we should have it. Question No. 8 by the Member for Regina—Lumsden (Mr. Benjamin) deals with foreign-owned corporations and tax deductions. Again, that is information the Government already has.

Mr. Speaker: I will not intervene in the Hon. Member's representation, but I do want to know something. Standing Order 39(5) states:

A Member may request that the Ministry respond to a specific question within forty-five days by so indicating when filing his or her question.

What I need to know from the Hon. Member is that on the matter to which he is referring did the Member in fact request that the Minister respond within 45 days?

Mr. Murphy: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly the point I am making. Following the rules and the indication you have made with regard to the Standing Order, when we submitted these questions on April 3 as soon as the House of Commons sat, we indicated that we wanted answers to each and every one of the questions I referred to so far and the ones to which I will refer in a few seconds.

The point is that we did our homework. We were ready when the House finally sat. We asked a number of questions that we believe are important to our constituents and important to Canadians.

I do not understand why the Government has answered so few questions to date. Whether it is Ms. Black, Mr. Kristiansen, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Young, Mr. Nystrom, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Whittaker, both Mr. Skellys, Mr.

Riis, Mr. Angus, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Funk, Mr. Butland, Mr. Axworthy, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Karpoff, Mr. de Jong, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Taylor—

An Hon. Member: More, more!

Mr. Murphy: There is more. There are a number by Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Gardiner—all of those people asked that their questions be responded to within 45 days. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is not just a matter of requesting. We have a standing order which says that is something the Government should provide to the House of Commons. They know the rules. The Parliamentary Secretary that got up earlier knows the rules because he is part of the committee that called for parliamentary reform. I demand that these questions be answered. They have already broken so many rules in this House. This is a rule that does not cause them that much of a problem but it is a situation where we want information. We in the Opposition have a right to get that information. I believe that they are in contempt of Parliament by not providing that information.

• (1120)

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his intervention and to assure him that we on this side are very much concerned about parliamentary reform and have played an active role in the reforms that have such an impact on this House.

I do want to apologize to the Member for the delay in some of the answers coming. As he knows, we answered some earlier this week and we will continue to do that. We will do everything within our power to make sure that those questions are answered as quickly as possible.

Mr. Murphy: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to belabour the point since we have to deal with the borrowing authority legislation, but it is important. My problem with the answer that the House has been given by the Parliamentary Secretary is that the questions can be answered. We are not talking about complicated information. We are talking about information that already exists in the various Departments. It is not a matter of "We will provide it when we can". The information is there. The attitude of the Government in the various Departments is to ignore Parliament and to ignore the Members of Parliament. The information is in the Departments. We have a right to get that information. Whether it is a government Member or an opposition Member, we have asked for it. We have a right to