

*Routine Proceedings*

At stake here is a \$10.2 billion industry for our farm commodities of dairy products, eggs, poultry and others, and also some 97,000 jobs. The very secure supply of domestically produced dairy and poultry products is at stake. The viability of our most successful and productive farm sectors is at stake.

More important, the viability of literally thousands of communities across Canada is at stake, and that is why I ask for this emergency debate.

• (1550 )

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday you were not in the chair. I made reference to the fact that with regard to Standing Order 52 and applications made pursuant to that order, I wanted to avail myself of the opportunity to put a few comments on the record with regard to the discretion that the Speaker has in terms of determining whether or not there ought to be a debate under this particular provision.

I would like to proceed at this time if I may. My points are fairly brief and succinct and I would like to put them to the Chair before the Chair makes a decision with regard to this application.

**Mr. Speaker:** I certainly do not want to cut off discussion on a matter of interpretation of any rule. My difficulty now is that I have an application in front of me and the rule is very clear. There is to be no argument and the matter is to be put forward succinctly, as the hon. member for Algoma has done.

I do not know that it would be appropriate or proper, since I have now heard the application and have not yet ruled, to hear discussion on how the rule might or might not be interpreted. I am certainly prepared to hear that on another occasion, but I wonder if the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond can satisfy me that I ought to hear a discussion now on the rule in front of me when the application under the rule is before me. That is my difficulty.

I will hear the hon. member further.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, it certainly would be my preference to speak before the Chair makes a decision. However I perfectly understand the dilemma the Chair is in. If the Chair wishes to proceed with making a decision on this particular application, I would be only too happy to wait and then offer my particular views on the interpretation that I have with regard to Standing Order 52.

**Mr. Speaker:** All right. I think we are also going to have a limited debate on the order and I would now like to ask the consent of the House to do so.

**Mr. Dingwall:** It is a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, it is a point of order in one sense but how long does it go on?

I am going to make the ruling now on this matter.

First of all, the hon. member for Algoma is not the only member who has brought the matter to the attention of the Chair this week. The matter has received a certain amount of attention in the Chamber and certainly today.

There is no question that the matter is a serious one. I am not inclined to say today that it meets the question of emergency which I have to look at.

I am going to say to the hon. member for Algoma that I will continue to pay very close attention to what was said. Not accepting the application today does not mean that the member is precluded from bringing it up at another time.

The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond rises on a point of order and I know that he wants to get into a discussion as to what this order means. Perhaps I could ask the hon. member how long he expects to be on this matter.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I expect, since it is now six minutes to four, that I would be no longer than five minutes, and possibly three minutes, with regard to a point of order which I believe is close to the heart of Standing Order 52, which is the discretion exercised by the Chair.