

Canada Labour (Standards) Code

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, there was a suggestion this afternoon from members opposite that a more appropriate way to handle this matter would be that rather than having the minister's statement made in his absence by someone else, which is what we suggested at first, the debate be concluded at this point and the minister would make his final speech tomorrow. It was agreed that if the minister were here and did speak, it would conclude the debate. If hon. members opposite do not want to go along with that suggestion, we can adjourn the debate to another day.

● (9:20 p.m.)

It has been suggested that if the minister were here and intervened tonight, that would conclude the debate. The simpler thing to do would be to conclude the debate by agreement and have the minister's intervention tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I do not think hon. members would want to take a great deal of time discussing this point. The Chair's understanding is that there was unanimous agreement among the House leaders, but of course if there is not agreement the order cannot be made and the Chair will be guided by the House and will call another order of business.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might speak again for a few moments in order to facilitate the passage of this legislation. The minister is not here this evening and, as the assistant government whip has pointed out, the minister would like to close the debate. I would like to hear him because he is a very imaginative and informative Minister of Labour. In light of this I believe passage of the legislation could best be facilitated by calling it ten o'clock and hearing the minister's remarks on another occasion.

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak briefly on the point of order advanced initially by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner). The minister is absent this evening because he is speaking to the Ontario school teachers. Because of the complex nature of the legislation before us—and a series of very complex questions have been asked—it was the minister's intention to study carefully the debate as recorded in *Hansard* this evening so that he could answer in detail the pertinent questions raised by hon. members on the other side of the House.

Accord was reached earlier today to the effect that we would deal with the second reading stage this evening and that tomorrow the minister would be given the privilege of replying to these questions. I would hope hon. members on both sides of the House would consider this to be a useful procedure.

Mr. Peters: Calling it ten o'clock is the easy way out.

Mr. Horner: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair must be guided by the wish of hon. members. As I understood it, there was agreement. Hon. members have spoken on the point of

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

order. Is it agreed that the debate at this point be concluded save only for the reply of the Minister of Labour?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is no such agreement.

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It has been moved by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Jerome), seconded by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Goode), that the debate be now adjourned. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, in view of the circumstances we will agree to dispense with a motion in writing because of the very urgent nature of this motion.

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FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MARKETING COUNCIL AND AGENCIES

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-176, to establish the National Farm Products Marketing Council and to authorize the establishment of national marketing agencies for farm products, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. On the report stage of Bill C-176, which is now before the House for consideration, the Chair understands there have been discussions on the procedure to be followed. As hon. members know, there is authority in the Chair to group or combine certain amendments. I believe there are some 30 amendments to be considered at this stage of the debate. Perhaps I might put to hon. members what I understand is the agreement, and if there should be a divergence of opinion I know hon. members will say so. I will read the notes I have, and if there is agreement it could be put in the form of an order.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I realize the Chair has a difficult job in attempting to sort out the amendments, some of which have a great deal of similarity. I regret very much that the Chair has not consulted the movers of the amendments. The motivation behind the amendments can best be described by the movers, and therefore the grouping of the amendments can best be determined by the movers with the expertise of the Chair. Therefore, I suggest to the Chair that there may be disagreement in respect of the grouping of the amendments because the Chair has not seen fit to consult the movers.

I raise this point, Mr. Speaker, only as a suggestion. We are all grouping under a new set of rules with regard to report stage. I raise this point now to suggest to the Chair that on a future occasion a similar situation might arise and it might be advisable if the Chair, before