

Business of the House

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I would like to reinforce what I have raised on two previous occasions. It would be the desire of this Party to see the Canada Labour Code amendments dealt with expeditiously. I would like to urge the Government House Leader to attempt to find out from the Conservatives why they are stalling.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that serious consideration is given to all Bills on the Order Paper, including the one just referred to. As he knows very well, a few minutes ago the three House Leaders were negotiating a package. The Bill he referred to was included in the package. We must wait until next week before we know the results of our negotiations. I certainly do not intend to continue negotiating on the floor of the House.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I am sure there must be something wrong with my hearing device. I would have sworn that I heard the Member for Hamilton Mountain make the accusation that somehow we in this Party are holding up a certain piece of legislation with respect to the Canada Labour Code. I can only say that that statement is the opposite to the truth.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, taking into account the comments made by the Hon. House Leader for the Official Opposition, perhaps the Government House Leader would check with the Minister of Labour to see whether he has received a reply from the Leader of the Official Opposition with regard to speedy and expeditious passage of the Canada Labour Code amendments which are now before us, given that up until now I have not been able to decide where they stand on it.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that if it is true that the Official Opposition is disposed to allow the Canada Labour Code to go to committee, and if it is also true that the NDP is serious in wanting that Bill to go to committee, that would have been done at this time if the NDP had not used two days to debate Bill C-37, the National Housing Act.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind what the Government House Leader has said, I would ask you to seek unanimous consent for leave to introduce the following motion pertaining to the treatment of Bill C-34. If unanimous consent were forthcoming, I would be prepared to move and to support that the Standing Orders be amended by adding immediately following Standing Order 79(1) the following:

- 79.(1a) The purpose of this Standing Order is to provide for the orderly and timely consideration of Bill C-34, An Act to amend the Canadian Labour Code, and to be finally disposed of no later than June 30th, 1984;
- (b) When the House is considering the said legislation for second reading, at the end of one day's debate, all questions necessary to dispose shall be put;
- (c) That the said legislation shall be deemed to be returned to the House for report stage and third reading no later than June 28, 1984.

If there were unanimous consent for that motion, Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to support it.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain to introduce his motion?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I understand the interest of the Hon. Member. However, I am very much surprised at his request at this time. We just had a House Leaders' meeting. It was made very clear that since this Bill was included in our negotiations we would not raise this matter on the floor of the House of Commons today.

● (1510)

Mr. Deans: That's not true.

Mr. Pinard: It was made very clear that the content of our meeting would not be made public. We want this Bill to be passed. We want other legislation to be passed. We hope that our negotiations will be fruitful and that Bill C-34 will be passed before the end of June, as will Bill C-37, the amendments to the National Housing Act.

The Hon. Member knows very well that the two are very much tied together, and all the time used so far by the NDP on Bill C-37 is preventing us from dealing with Bill C-34. If the Hon. Member wants to give a positive answer to my offer to allow Bill C-34 to go to committee very quickly, on the same day we will send the National Housing Act. That I can do any time next week.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I hate to say it but what the Government House Leader said is not true. I made no such commitment with regard to raising this question at the House Leaders' meeting. There was none and he knows it. I am surprised that he would even indicate that that is the case. He sought the commitment and I refused to give it. If he thinks back on the meeting and searches his mind, I think he would feel an obligation to rise and apologize for having suggested that.

However, with regard to linking the two, the National Housing Act Bill and the Labour Code Bill, I am prepared to pass the Labour Code Bill with one speaker per Party. I cannot get agreement from the Conservatives.

An Hon. Member: Who are you? Are you the Government?

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I do not doubt the good faith of the Hon. Member. I certainly do not intend to apologize because I believe what I said. All I can say is that the Hon. Member has developed the art or the cult of ambiguity. It was very clear to me that we made an agreement not to raise this matter today because we are negotiating it.

You are supposed to go to your caucus next Wednesday, as is the Official Opposition. I do not mind talking about it publicly, but since we have agreed not to raise it—I repeat we had agreed not to raise it—

Mr. Deans: That's not true.