

(d) The Board published an annual report in 1982-83 and provided recommendations concerning approximately 17,000 duty remission applications.

[English]

Mr. Evans: I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Shall the notices of motions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, I note that the number that has been called and the item set down for the first item of business bears a serial number of about 600. May I respectfully raise again the objections that I have put before, that late comers on the list are getting debating time, whereas there are some Private Members' Bills that have been on the Order Paper, quite as important to the Members who are the sponsors, since 1980.

Why is it that an official, to whom apparently this authority has been delegated to select items, should do so? That is a matter for the Table officers, and there was an order of precedents that was set. I am not aware that there has been any agreement by the House to vary the procedure. Why is it that we have the Johnny-come-latelies coming in now?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I do not think it is appropriate for the Chair to comment too extensively on that subject. I might indicate to the Hon. Member very briefly that my understanding is that Private Members' Bills come forward on the basis of agreement and availability of the private Member. I might also indicate that recent information from the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization that

Private Members' Business

the handling of Private Members' Bills will be shifted from its present system to a system which responds to the Deputy Speaker and to the Clerks at the Table.

I understand the Hon. Member's point. He has raised it before.

Mr. Lambert: And nothing has been done to vary it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I believe that if the Hon. Member wishes to check the records of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization he will find that that problem has been addressed.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, may I say that the only time this has been addressed is apparently in a letter circulated by the former Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council who was proposing a rather complicated procedure. It did not receive sanction from anyone as far as I know.

All I am saying is that we have well known established rules with regard to the filing of two types of motions and of private Bills. There were procedures laid down quite clearly as to how the priorities would be chosen. May I say, as one who still has two outstanding Bills, that no one has approached me concerning these apart from the one that I have had to debate. I do not believe there is a sort of seriatim right pertaining to everyone in the House to be asked or to have proposed a Bill so their name may appear as a proposer of some private Member's motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I will repeat, with the permission of the Hon. Member, that I have heard his comments before on the subject. I am aware of the grounds for his comments. I have indicated that, as far as I am aware, the Procedure and Organization Committee has addressed this subject. I think that if he would accept my comments as indicated that the form for procedure with respect to Private Members' Hour seems to be on the way, then, with his agreement, I might be able to proceed. I cannot say anything further because it is not within my particular authority to do so. I would hope the Hon. Member would understand that and realize the subject has been addressed in the committee.

Mr. Lambert: If you are deputizing for Madam Speaker, you have the authority—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): If the Hon. Member wishes to stand and make a further comment, I will recognize him, but it is difficult to have a personal conversation with the Chair.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, as my last comment may I say that I admire your diffidence as to authority, but at the present time the occupant of the Chair is representing the Speaker, and the Speaker has the authority on all these matters. Therefore, in my book there is no ducking it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In that case, I shall not attempt to duck it and will simply proceed as I ought to in the circumstances.