

Business of the House

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Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and it is a perfectly innocent one. It is the usual Thursday afternoon question. I wanted to ask the President of the Privy Council, who I congratulate for feeling free to wear the white flower of innocence, what the nature of the business will be for the rest of this week and next week. I understand some government members are having problems with their travel plans.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I am very hopeful we might in fact be able to dispose of all the remaining business for this part of the session, if not at the close of this sitting day—

Mr. Baldwin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the hon. gentleman give some indication possibly later today or tomorrow of the means he will use to acquaint hon. members with the nature of the business to be discussed when we come back—on the assumption there will be an adjournment rather than prorogation, so that members will be fully prepared for the business which will face them when the session resumes next fall?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I can assure the house there will be an adjournment. It is proposed that the final day of this session will be used for the purpose of completing committee reports and other business and we will then go right into adjournment. The contemplated day of resumption, subject to any contingencies that might arise, would be October 22 as indicated in the motion for adjournment.

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

MOTION THAT DEBATE BE NOT FURTHER ADJOURNED

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 33 I move, seconded by Mr. McIlraith:

That the debate on the motion that the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization presented to the house—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—I was [Mr. Speaker.]

waiting for Your Honour to call orders of the day—

An hon. Member: He did it.

Mr. Aiken: With all due respect they have been called for the last 40 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I had called orders of the day because the question period had expired two and a half minutes before that time. I had allowed the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) to ask a supplementary question. In any event I will certainly recognize the hon. member on a point of order.

Mr. Aiken: I have a point of order to raise, Mr. Speaker, of which I have given Your Honour notice. It is in connection with the notice given by the President of the Privy Council as it appears in *Votes and Proceedings* for July 22, that is, the notice that he will move under Standing Order 33.

Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, my argument is that the minister cannot give notice of two motions at the same time under the Standing Order. I contend that he has given notice of closure of the debate that we are now engaged in, that is on the amendment moved by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), and also on the main motion which is the committee report.

The reason I raise this at this time is twofold. First, I contend the notice given by the minister was invalid because it attempted to do something he could not legally do. Second, even if it is not considered invalid by Your Honour, it can apply only to the amendment which is being considered and upon which the debate is being resumed, and cannot apply to the main motion. I wish to point out that closure is a procedure by which the basic and fundamental right of free speech is restricted. It must therefore be interpreted very strictly. If there is any doubt, it should not be applied against freedom of speech.

I present the proposition that there is considerable doubt in our rules about whether this motion can be moved to cover both the amendment and the main motion. I wish to read Rule 33 as it relates to a debate being held while the house is sitting with the Speaker in the Chair. It reads as follows:

Immediately before the order of the day for resuming an adjourned debate is called, or if the house be in committee of the whole, any Minister of the Crown who, standing in his place, shall have given notice at a previous sitting of his intention so to do may move that the debate shall not be further adjourned,—