HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, July 13, 1976

The House met at 11 a.m.

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURES RESPECTING PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES

On the order: Government Orders:

Resuming debate on the motion of the Solicitor General,—That Bill C-84, An Act to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and certain other serious offences, be now read a third time.

Deferred division on the motion in amendment thereto of Mr. Condon, seconded by Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand),—That Bill C-84, An Act to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and certain other serious offences, be not now read a third time but that it be read a third time this day three months hence.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, when I left the House yesterday to attend the commemoration service for the eleven Israeli athletes who were killed in Munich, I remarked to my parliamentary secretary that I hoped I would not see him again until Wednesday, and he smiled reassuringly.

An hon. Member: Change secretaries.

Mr. Sharp: However, some rather unforeseen difficulties seem to have arisen partly because, if I may say, the French version of the House order which had been approved did not accord with the English version. This is a point which perhaps ought to be looked into, but be that as it may, the House leaders met this morning to see what might be the best way of proceeding with the continuation of the debate on Bill C-84. The House leaders are agreed on all points, particularly that we do not in any way want to hamper the debate on Bill C-84. Indeed, our wish is to facilitate it and to bring it to an eventual conclusion.

Our unanimous recommendation, therefore, is that with the consent of the House we proceed now with the debate on the main motion for the third reading of Bill C-84.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to what the government House leader has said, and he has put the proposition precisely. As one of the House leaders I certainly consent, and I commend that arrangement to all members of the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is an arrangement to which we also agree.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I think the government House leader forgot to mention one little thing which we also discussed this morning, namely that if the discussion on third reading ends before one o'clock this afternoon, there should be an oral questions period this afternoon.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is it understood, therefore, after discussion this morning, that the House will consider it one o'clock if the debate terminates so that there will in fact be certain to be a two o'clock proceeding this afternoon, including a question period and routine proceedings? The recommendation before the House is that, notwithstanding the practices and precedents of the House which would preclude discussion of Bill C-84 as long as the amendment motion remains outstanding, the House give unanimous consent to proceed to use the time today to discuss the main motion for third reading of Bill C-84. Does the House consent to that?

• (1110)

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.

Was the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Jones) rising on a point of order?

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, I was not apprised of the actual consent for this Procedure until a few moments ago. I wonder if the government House leader would have the courtesy to at least advise me. One of the House leaders did, but I should like to hear it from the one who has to announce it to the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I take it that the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Jones) is not on this occasion withholding his consent but is establishing a plan for the future and a very valid one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Agreed and so ordered. Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURES RESPECTING PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES

The House resumed, from Monday, July 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Allmand that Bill C-84 to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and certain other serious offences, be read the third time and do pass, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Condon.