

to something else and leave motions Nos. 1, 2 and 4 until later?

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We could go on to the adjournment motion, on which there will be only one question, if you would like to call it six o'clock; but you would have to give us five minutes to call in the one member who is prepared to speak in the adjournment debate.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In any case I have called on Mr. Speaker, and we will have to wait to see what his decision is.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have given some consideration to motion No. 3 standing in the name of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). I am endeavouring to do all I can to support the notion that the motion does not introduce a number of new principles into this bill, and I am having great difficulty with that. At this moment I cannot be very encouraging with respect to the likelihood that the House will go on to debate that motion.

This leaves us with the motions standing in the name of the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), which remain in some procedural doubt. It was a pleasant development that the House finalized so speedily its consideration of the report stage of Bill C-27 during the two hours this morning. Therefore it is not extraordinary that the hon. member for Winnipeg North might be caught by surprise. However, it leaves us in some difficulty about business. I wonder if it might be appropriate for the House to move to consideration of other matters or another government order.

**Mr. Goodale:** Mr. Speaker, the next items of business, as I indicated earlier, would be two finance bills, Bill C-5 and Bill C-18, which deal with currency and exchange and Bretton Woods. Both bills stand at report stage. I notice the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Kaplan) is not here at the moment. I understand he will be here momentarily. If other hon. members are ready to proceed with those two items, I am sure the government would be ready to proceed as well.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the House for the delay of my colleague, which is putting us in a spot where we have to take it easy for a few minutes, but I do not think that will hurt us.

While Your Honour was out of the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker was in the chair, a suggestion was made that we might proceed to the adjournment debate by calling it six o'clock. Perhaps we could have your ruling on motion No. 3 and then proceed to the adjournment debate. If my colleague is not here when we convene at eight o'clock tonight, I will not ask for any further delay.

**Mr. Speaker:** In a general way I can certainly give the House the benefit of my decision in respect to motion No. 3. We examined several paragraphs of the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). Further to the point of order and the arguments made earlier, we had to address ourselves to two considerations. The first

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was in relation to the principle of the bill itself, because a motion at this stage has to be consistent with the principle of the bill, and it must not exceed the scope of the clause which it seeks to amend. The bill itself establishes, as a new practice, the ability of the Auditor General to table a different kind of report from that which he has been able to table in the past, that is to say, generally it would be a special report under circumstances where the Auditor General feels it is necessary.

The purpose of clause 8 is to permit the Auditor General to make that kind of report. The purpose of the motion, in basic terms, is to endeavour to indicate what the House will do with a report as and when it is received in the circumstances as described in the statute. While that motion may not in itself be such as to offend the precedents and practices of the House with respect to amendments, the motion itself goes much further than that.

● (1740)

Rather than attempting simply to establish some disposition by the House of reports of the Auditor General of this sort when they are received, the motion goes on in rather extensive provisions to do such things as establish, at the beginning of every session of parliament, a standing committee of the House, which is a different practice than that which we now follow pursuant to our Standing Orders, to establish the membership of the committee, and to establish compulsorily that the chairmanship of the committee shall be filled by hon. members who sit in opposition to the government. Those provisions alone contain amendments to the practices of the House which are rather substantial in nature, and it seems to me that to reach so far as to attempt to alter substantially the practices of the House in respect to the establishment of committees which are to operate independent of orders of reference of the House and which are constructed by statute or constituted by statute is to depart from the present practice of the House with respect to orders of reference.

This motion would impose conditions, which would be a departure from those which now exist, in respect to an automatic order of reference to a standing committee independent of an order of the House; reach through this statute to attempt to alter the structure of standing committees; alter conditions under which committees operate, and in effect direct members of the committees when they are constituted together on how they shall proceed to do their business; and specifically it would direct the members of a committee to choose their chairman from among the members. While that is a practice of the House at the present time,—and it is a very laudable practice—indeed it is never a practice which has been attempted to be enshrined in legislation. Surely if that attempt is to be made it would have to be made through an amendment to the Standing Orders of the House.

The motion goes on to alter provisions of the Financial Administration Act. It goes on to extend powers of the committee to sit independent of the House, and things of that nature. All of it varies extensively the practice of the House