

jumper. He was asked how he became so proficient. He said, "I made a fool of myself thousands and thousands of times, but I kept practising."

Honourable senators, I continue to practise. I stand to be corrected, but I believe that in his analysis of the procedure, the Leader of the Opposition is correct. However, it is to be hoped that we will revisit the situation in the public interest and see what we can do tomorrow.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: I raise that issue, honourable senators, because none of us here and in the rest of the country understand why a certain faction in the House of Commons is delaying a most essential piece of legislation.

That being said, it appears that the Canadian public must suffer from this work stoppage through tomorrow, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The bill would come to us Monday night. Obviously, everyone will be anxious to see us dispose of it.

Since there is agreement by all of us to hear witnesses, perhaps the government would consider finding a way, if the rules allow or if dispensation is needed, to hear witnesses before the bill comes to us. Once the legislation arrives, we would have the minister appear as a witness. We could then dispose of the bill as quickly as possible. I leave that suggestion with the government.

I can assure the government that we sympathize with the problems created outside of its control. It can count on our full cooperation to pass this bill as expeditiously as possible.

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I thank Senator Lynch-Staunton for his suggestion. I concur in what he says. It is truly unbelievable that we, in this chamber, in this Parliament and in this country, find ourselves in a situation where great damage is being done by the activities of one group in the House of Commons.

As honourable senators know, anything can be done by unanimous consent. However, the honourable leader is quite right in indicating that tomorrow is a supply day in the House.

Under the rules of the House of Commons, members cannot vote until Monday.

Honourable senators, we will ascertain first thing in the morning if any sanity has struck overnight and if, through their procedures, the House of Commons can make some progress on this bill. There has been some talk of that. We will certainly be ready for whatever might occur.

We will certainly consider the suggestion of my honourable friend. Perhaps the Senate can aid in bringing this matter to conclusion in an expeditious manner.

Hon. Thérèse Lavoie-Roux: Can the Leader of the Government in the Senate tell us who is blocking the bill?

Senator Fairbairn: My understanding, honourable senators, is that the "blocking" is being done by the Bloc Québécois. Earlier on in the proceedings, there was a coalition between the Bloc and the NDP. I believe now that the opposition rests solely with the Bloc.

Hon. J. Michael Forrestall: Does the Leader of the Government in the Senate know if the government is prepared to issue notice of closure? Is the Government of Canada now prepared to serve notice that there will be 24 hours of debate or 40 hours of debate?

Senator Fairbairn: Senator Forrestall, the government has used time allocation as best it can. Closure is the final step. Closure stretches the process out even further. We have been working with the Reform Party and anyone we can in this matter. However, there has been an implacable lack of will to proceed.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Graham, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hébert, that the Senate do now adjourn.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.