

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, June 23, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

[*English*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I understand that my colleague, the Member for Guelph (Mr. Winegard), has a report to present. I ask that the House revert to presenting reports from committees at three o'clock because there is another committee report being translated. It is not ready now but will be ready at three o'clock.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is 11 o'clock. I would like to know what report and what committee we are talking about so that we can understand exactly what we are trying to do.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary could explain.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, it is the Committee on Government Operations.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. This is, of course, the same report as has been referred to this morning by the media before it has been tabled in the House. It is unfortunate that time and again reports of standing committees are being discussed by the media. Members are being asked to comment on them before they are tabled in the House and yet the media has full knowledge of their contents.

You know, of course, Mr. Speaker, that that is a breach of the Standing Orders of the House. I use this opportunity to bring that to your attention. That does not mean that we are not willing to give consent for the report to be tabled this afternoon. Now that it is leaked it is better that it be presented this afternoon than on a later day.

It is unfortunate that these reports get into the hands of the public before other members of this House have the opportunity to see them. I happen to know the contents of the report so my privileges were not breached, but the same does not apply to many of my colleagues in this Chamber.

As a final point, I find it particularly—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): A Liberal leak.

Mr. Boudria: That comment by the Member for Ottawa—Carleton (Mr. Turner) was unnecessary. I hope he takes the opportunity to apologize for it at the appropriate time.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Excuse me, sonny.

Mr. Boudria: I raise my share of tough issues in this House. However, I do believe that it is unfair that all Members of Parliament are not permitted to see reports of standing committees simultaneously. This seems to happen again and again in the same committee, that being the Committee on Government Operations, of which I am a member.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) has raised a matter which has troubled the Chair and Hon. Members. It may well be that he will want to raise it more extensively at another time. If there is consent to present the report this afternoon, the Chair might observe that the report might not be exactly the same as that which has been commented upon elsewhere. Nonetheless, the point which the Hon. Member makes is an important one.

I take it that there is consent to introduce that report this afternoon? The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) indicates consent.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

PRESENTATION OF THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the third report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

• (1110)

[*English*]

This report is concerned with automotive manufacturing and trade in Canada. The Committee does not accept the suggestions of the North American manufacturers that the Government of Canada legislate Canadian content for Japanese and Korean manufacturers.