

Computer Crime

Also I inform Hon. Members that the motion put earlier to extend the sitting did not contain a time limit and therefore the session continues indefinitely. I hope Hon. Members understand this. Of course the House by agreement, by unanimous consent, may want at this stage or at a later stage to show some agreement for a time of adjournment; but it is not for the Chair to suggest or impose an adjournment time on Hon. Members.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I have one more question. I am sure you are appreciating or enjoying this as much as I am. I was under the impression when I raised the question earlier that there was a conflict here. In other words, there is a rule which makes provision for the Private Members' Hour. I wonder if that would terminate Private Members' Business. It may very well be that we go on to other business, but as far as Private Members' hour is concerned, I thought the rules specifically indicated that there was a time frame within which it could not go beyond the one hour. It does not necessarily have to go an hour, but not beyond the one hour. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you could help me on that point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I refer Hon. Members to the Permanent and Provisional Standing Orders under which we are now operating. Standing Order 8(4) reads in its entirety as follows:

(a) When the Speaker is in the chair, a Member may propose a motion, without notice, to continue a sitting through a lunch or dinner hour or beyond the ordinary hour of daily adjournment for the purpose of considering a specified item of business or a stage or stages thereof subject to the following conditions:

(i) The motion must relate to the business then being considered provided that proceedings in any Committee of the Whole—

(ii) The motion must be proposed in the hour preceding the time at which the business under consideration should be interrupted by a lunch or dinner hour, Private Members' Hour or the ordinary time of daily adjournment.

(iii) The motion shall not be subject to debate or amendment.

(b) In putting the question on such motion, the Speaker shall ask those Members who object to rise in their places. If 25 or more Members then rise, the motion shall be deemed to have been withdrawn, otherwise, the motion shall have been adopted.

The Standing Orders provide for debate of not more than one hour on Private Members' Motions or Bills. Of course it could be less; that is for the House to decide. At this stage we are subjected to the provisions of Standing Order 8(4)(a), and it is the Chair's interpretation from the guidance it has received that the debate continues until Hon. Members decide that they wish to adjourn.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to stand before you were seated, but I have a point of clarification, a point of order or whatever you wish to call it. If we continue to read Beauchesne's, it indicates:

If the previous question be carried, the Speaker will immediately put the question without further debate. But, if the previous question is resolved in the negative, then the Speaker cannot put the main motion—

● (1825)

I take that to mean, as I suggested earlier, that once Mr. Speaker is seized of the motion to vote immediately, the motion must be put. If it carries, then we vote immediately; if

it fails, then debate on the motion continues as the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) suggested.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, it seems you have already ruled on the very question. The Motion of the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) that the question be now put is a debatable motion and, therefore, I do not see what the point of order is about.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) raised a legitimate concern. I must draw his attention and that of Hon. Members to Citation 452 of Beauchesne's wherein it is indicated that once the question is proposed—and the Chair has proposed it to the House—"the debate may continue on the original question."

The point raised by the Hon. Member for Simcoe North addressed itself to debate ending on the motion. Once debate on the motion put by the Hon. Member for Bow River is complete, the House has to put the question. First we would dispose of the motion of the Hon. Member for Bow River and then the motion on second reading. That is the understanding and interpretation which the Chair gives to Citation 452.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to be obtrusive in this matter. My earlier point was that we seem to have a conflict between two rules. Obviously I accept Mr. Speaker's ruling that when the motion was made earlier by a Member of the New Democratic Party we continue and the Chair not see the clock; that was well and good. I thought we would continue beyond the usual hour of adjournment, that is six o'clock, but there is something conflicting with that particular rule. I was under the impression there is a rule providing that Private Members' Hour shall not last more than one hour. Assuming for a moment, for the sake of debate, that I stand up and commence my address, which I am quite prepared to do, on second reading of this Bill—

● (1830)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. Perhaps the Chair has not sufficiently clarified the point raised by the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) with respect to the length of Private Members' Hour. The Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton is quite right. We should not go beyond a total of 60 minutes. We could have debate for less than one hour. That is not against the rules. If we go back in time, the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) proposed a motion to the House which was acceptable and which was resolved affirmatively. Therefore, we do not have an adjournment time or an end to the debate on the question of second reading of Bill C-667 which is now before the House. That explains why the debate continues at this point. I hope the Chair has been sufficiently clear in the explanation so that Hon. Members appreciate what is happening. Of course, it is the first time it has happened under the provisional rules. I trust the Chair has clarified the matter to everyone's satisfaction. Again, I recognize the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton for debate on the previous question which was proposed to the House.