

*Business of the House*

judges in certain provinces, at their request. New provisional Standing Orders have been circulated to opposition House Leaders which will come into effect when Parliament reconvenes next fall. They are in response to the first report of the Special Committee on Reform of the House of Commons.

● (2100)

We also have a Bill which I introduced for first reading today, which would go through all three stages and receive third reading. It's an amendment to the House of Commons Act, the main purpose of which is to establish a new Board of Internal Economy. That also takes effect on the recommencement of Parliament.

I am reminded by my Parliamentary Secretary that I should now seek agreement that we should not see the clock until we finish our arrangements. I would ask for unanimous consent so we could continue, and I can complete my dissertation.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I would second the motion that you do not see the clock, Mr. Speaker. However, I would like to clarify the shopping list put to us by the Government House Leader. We are going to get to third reading of Bill C-51 in a few minutes. Bill C-44 is the next item of business, or is the Government House Leader going to talk about the motions? Is he going to talk about the House of Commons Act? Is that the order in which he is going to call the Bills? Because that changes what I was told.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, in my own hand I gave to the Hon. Member's Deputy House Leader the listing. It is Bill C-51, Bill C-44, the Judges Bill, the Bill with respect to the House of Commons Act and the Standing Orders. There is a good reason for that, Mr. Speaker.

The Senate has preconsidered the first items to which I referred up to Bill C-44. The House of Commons Act is a Bill which the Senate has not preconsidered, but it only affects the House of Commons. I thought I would leave that until the end because it is something that the Senate could leave and deal with, I think, rather expeditiously. I do not want to presume that, but I think the Senate would be inclined to understand that this is something affecting only the House of Commons.

The understanding would be, of course, that the arrangement about adjourning tomorrow is conditional upon obtaining Royal Assent tonight. I will not get into the details but, obviously, if we do not get Royal Assent, we will have to sit tomorrow and continue on until Royal Assent is obtained. However, I believe it is possible to get Royal Assent tonight, in which case we can convene tomorrow.

I would be quite prepared to accept the suggestion of the House Leader of the New Democratic Party. I think I should put this in context. The House Leader of the New Democratic Party asked me for this particular move—as the Whip for the Official Opposition will understand—because that Party has its national convention here. It is on the basis that those Hon. Members are meeting in national convention that we would agree to this proposition, and only on that basis. It is a

courtesy extended to the New Democratic Party in respect to its national convention. I want to make that perfectly clear.

I think I have given the undertakings and understandings as requested by the House Leader for the New Democratic Party.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I take it that the items enumerated by the Government House Leader will be made an order of this House and that we will protect the rights of Hon. Members of this House to have their late adjournment debate.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Are they here?

**Mr. Gauthier:** I do not know, but I am protecting their rights as an Hon. Member of the House. I think we should protect those people. I do not know who they are.

The Government House Leader is telling us that in the spirit of co-operation with the New Democratic Party, we will adjourn the House after Question Period tomorrow. Is that what I understand?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I would say after the Question Period and after Routine Proceedings because, as the Whip of the Liberal Party will understand, there are a number of requests which have come from his Party with respect to changes in membership of committees which will be sitting during the course of the summer. There are various items. I think Routine Proceedings would be the end. We will adjourn before Orders of the Day would be called, if that would be to the satisfaction of the Whip of the Liberal Party.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, since I seem to have started this mess, let me finish it. I want, first of all, to say that the understanding as outlined by the Government House Leader is exactly the way I understood it to be. I appreciate the intervention of the Whip for the Official Opposition.

I want to thank both the Official Opposition and the Government for agreeing that tomorrow we could rise at the end of Routine Proceedings in order that all of my colleagues and myself could be in attendance at the national convention.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Is there unanimous consent that the Chair does not see the clock?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** I also take it that the late show will be held?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** The Speaker wishes to thank you.