

other place for so many days—and, I would add, so many months—but I do think that, under the rules of the Senate, we should receive two days' notice of this type of motion. I would ask Your Honour to rule on this point.

Rule 23 of the Rules of the Senate of Canada reads as follows:

Two days' notice must be given of a motion for any of the following purposes:

(a) To make a new rule or standing order, or to repeal or amend an existing rule or standing order;

(b) For an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, not merely formal in its character;

(c) For an Order of the Senate for any papers or documents not relating to a Bill or other matter appearing among the Orders of the Day, or on the notice paper;

(d) For the appointment of a special committee;

(e) For the adoption of the report of any such special committee;

(f) For the second reading of a Bill;

(ff) For the adoption of a resolution of the Senate dissolving or annulling a marriage pursuant to the Dissolution and Annulment of Marriages Act;

(g) A like notice is required of any inquiry, not relating to a Bill or other matter appearing among the Orders of the Day, or on the notice paper.

Honourable senators, section 24, which I will refrain from reading through, enumerates a series of motions or types of motions which require notice of one day. I refer next to Rule 25, which enumerates motions for which no notice is required, the last two paragraphs of which read:

(s) Other motions of a merely formal or uncontentious character;

(t) Where notice is dispensed with by the unanimous consent of the Senate.

Honourable senators, as I explained at the outset, it is not my intention to delay in any way discussion in this chamber of a most important question, but I do know that we are almost taken by surprise and that some honourable senators who wish to speak on this important motion might not be prepared to do so. I am asking that Your Honour rule on this point of order.

Hon. Sarto Fournier: Honourable senators, speaking on the point of order, I hope I may be permitted to say that the honourable senator who spoke just before me, he was giving the general opinion of his political group in this house.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Who is that?

Hon. Mr. Fournier (De Lanaudière): I refer to you, my friend.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: I never spoke on politics.

Hon. Mr. Fournier (De Lanaudière): He referred to certain rules governing this house, in order to explain the conditions in which a debate on a motion has to take place. But at the end of his quotation, it is mentioned, if my memory is correct, that with the unanimous consent of the house we could proceed with the discussion in due course of time, as suggested by the Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. McCutcheon: The Leader of the Government did not suggest that.

Hon. Mr. Fournier (De Lanaudière): I would think there would be no difficulty in having the unanimous consent of this chamber, in spite of the objection that was put up by my honourable friend Senator Choquette, to the effect that some of his colleagues are taken by surprise. It was a surprise to me to hear today in this house that somebody might be taken by surprise concerning this debate which has been going so long in the other place, and the motion that was introduced in the other place today about which the whole country was informed some days ago. It has come to us today, and if some colleagues of the honourable gentleman are not quite prepared to speak tomorrow or the day after, I think that it will be very easy for us to adjourn the debate for a few hours.

Honourable senators, in view of the circumstances surrounding that debate, it would be a good move, in the eyes of the country, if we, in that part of the Canadian Parliament which is called the Senate, were to show good will by giving unanimous consent to the proposition just made by the Leader of the Government.

Hon. M. Wallace McCutcheon: Honourable senators, the educative lecture that the honourable senator (Hon. Mr. Fournier, De Lanaudière) has just given us on the way we should act in these circumstances has been most informative.

As I read the press, there is a debate going on in the other place at the moment, and it is far from me to predict what the result of the vote will be at one minute after one o'clock tomorrow morning.

I merely rise to support my colleague, Senator Choquette, and to say that as I read the rules there must be two days notice given of the motion by the Leader of the Government, and also to say that as far as any plea for unanimous consent is concerned, I am not giving unanimous consent.