

common ground upon which we can deal with this resolution quickly.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to have to interrupt the hon. member but the hon. member for Lotbinière has a question of privilege.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of the subject raised by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), I should like to point out to him that the simultaneous interpretation system is not working, which complicates matters since we are unable to understand what is being said concerning this question of procedure.

[English]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, like the government House leader, I have been engaged for two hours in a number of discussions mainly dealing with the serious economic problems of the country. The government House leader was kind enough to telephone me and I received the message just before the House met. I have not had an opportunity to have the fullest and widest consultation that normally might take place. However, if a motion of this kind is to be of any value it must be disposed of in the same way as the House disposed of the motion dealing with the Amchitka matter. When the parliament of one country contemplates dealing with the affairs of another country, I think the degree to which there is unanimity and swiftness of passage of any motion has much to do with its effectiveness. If there is a disposition in the House at this time to accept the suggestion of the government House leader to bring this motion forward for disposition without debate as an indication of the views of the House, I personally think that is all right. As far as I know, it would, hopefully, be acceptable to all members of the House.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we are anxious that this motion be dealt with by the House and we would like to see it dealt with today. We feel, however, it would be useful to have a brief statement by at least one spokesman from each party. We would be prepared to agree to such a limitation and we would even be prepared to agree to a special time limitation on their speeches, such as 10 or 15 minutes, but we feel the issue is so important that the motion should not be passed without anything at all being said. If we could agree now or before the Orders of the Day are reached, the House would know what the schedule is to be. At any rate, our suggestion is that some time during the morning there be consultation among the House leaders in the hope that we can deal with this matter this afternoon on the basis of one speaker for each party.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I shall go along with the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that there should be a meeting of the House parliamentary leaders in order that this priority subject may be debated today with only a limited delay.

Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: As I understand it, the position of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is that there should be a discussion among the House leaders. He has imposed some additional conditions in respect of speeches, but his suggestion is that the House leaders might discuss this matter and see what, if anything, might come out of this meeting of men of wisdom.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously we cannot arrive at a conclusion without further consultation. It appears to be the consensus of the House that there should be consultation between the House leaders, following which a decision might be taken by the House concerning how and when this matter might be considered.

• (1120)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR LIST OF BILLS AND INDICATION OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it was my impression and I expected that, as in recent years, the government would present a list of proposed bills along with the Speech from the Throne. Will the Prime Minister inform the House whether it is the government's intention to present such a list of proposed bills for the session and, if so, when we may expect to receive such a list?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that this practice was initiated by our government four years ago. It is not more ancient than that. We did it at the time because the throne speech itself was couched in slightly different terms than the present one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: That is the understatement of the week. You did not write it with such a trembling hand in those days.

Mr. Trudeau: So I think the reasons are obvious.

Mr. Stanfield: In the absence of such a list and any over-all statement with regard to the legislative priorities of the government in this session, will the Prime Minister indicate to the House the first four or five legislative items in terms of the government's legislative timetable and priorities and also indicate whether he can now give us the date when we may expect to receive a budget?

Mr. Trudeau: It will be our intention to indicate, through the House leader, as many bills as are necessary in the coming week to permit the House to see the business ahead of it.

Mr. Hees: Be specific.