

after the minister, that the time the member from Leeds-Grenville was on his feet erroneously speaking to the motion should not be counted as part of the 100 minutes allotted under the provisions of Standing Order 48.

Therefore, I would respectfully submit the 41 minutes outstanding in this debate should be counted from the time the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) took the floor, which was about 5.25 p.m., or around that time. I would submit that we should not interrupt the debate at this point to hear the customary reply from the minister. Incidentally, the minister to speak will be the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts). The Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne) because of lack of notice could not be in his place for the speech.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 48, the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Cossitt) is entitled to have the question put on his motion. I think members on this side might be disposed to extending private members' hour as long as it does not prejudice the right of the member to have the question put. It is not his fault that the parliamentary secretary got his wires crossed. It is not his fault that Standing Order 48 was not followed initially at the commencement of the debate. Therefore, he should not be prejudiced by private members' hour running out and the question not being put.

If the proper procedures had been followed, then the question would have been put. There would be no disposition on this side to follow the suggestion of the parliamentary secretary if it resulted in the right of the member for Leeds-Grenville to have his motion put to the vote, but if the House is disposed to extending private members' hour so as to allow that question to be put, there would be disposition, I believe, on this side to permit that to happen.

Mr. Collenette: Mr. Speaker, I suppose I am debating the point, but the confusion certainly was not on our side. We had the set normal practices. The hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) was prepared to go with the notice of motion for the production of papers appearing on the Order Paper as No. 32. The hon. member for Leeds-Grenville was permitted to speak. That procedure was in error. From time to time, these errors do happen. I must insist, from my point of view, that the balance of this debate should start at 5.22 p.m. and conclude when the remaining time has been used up.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You have no right to do that.

Mr. Collenette: With respect to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) on the extension of private members' hour, I find this difficult to accept. Earlier, as you remember, I sought consent to aid one of his colleagues, the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker). We got consent at that time but we did not get consent to waive private members' hour to deal with a very important matter, namely, a point of order which deals with the future of the constitutional resolution now before this place. I could hardly

be expected to agree, on behalf of the government, that we should not observe the provisions of Standing Order 6(1) at this time.

Veterans Affairs

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, it is not merely a suggestion that private members' hour be extended and I would think that the parliamentary secretary would be one of the first to stand up in protection of private members' rights. There can be no doubt that the Chair has that responsibility, just as there can be no doubt that the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville has the unquestionable right under Standing Order 48 to have the question put forthwith when the procedures have been followed.

I might just read Standing Order 48(2). You have already referred to most of it, but the pertinent words with respect to the rights of the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville are as follows:

Unless the motion is withdrawn, as provided by Standing Order 50,—

That is, after the right of a minister and the right of the member to reply have been exhausted. The Standing Order continues:

—Mr. Speaker shall forthwith put the question.

There can be no doubt about his right. I would suggest that there was time before the parliamentary secretary rose in his place and there is still ample time for a five-minute ministerial contribution and a five-minute reply. It is still only 5.47 p.m. and the question can still be put. I would urge you, Sir, to protect the right of the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville and have his question put.

Mr. Collenette: I would not want the hon. member for the Yukon to assume that the government is going to act in any particular way on this matter.

Mr. Fraser: Or any other.

Mr. Collenette: There are two reasons why I wish you would observe the suggestion I made in terms of not counting the time used by the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville and starting the debate at 5.22 p.m. instead. First, the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) and the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) both want to make contributions to this debate, as members have on the other side. Second, as we know, the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs is unable to be here. I am trying to locate him so he can be here. Whatever the misunderstanding was, it was not on our side, but that is a debatable point. I am trying to get the acting minister of veterans affairs here, and I understand there may be a disposition on the part of the government to agree to the motion of the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville.

The hon. member for Yukon when talking about a division and putting the question is acting with great anticipation. It almost seems as if hon. members want to force a vote, ring the bells and continue to filibuster the very workings of this House, whether in normal hours or during private members' business.

Mr. Beatty: You are filibustering.