Government Orders

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): One of the realities is that the existing Board of Internal Economy may change in the next month, month and a half. Because if the House does prorogue there will have to be a new striking of that committee and I suspect because of the changes, particularly in the Official Opposition as well as on the government benches, there may be some readjustment.

I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, if through you I can ask the chief government Whip whether he was speaking as a member of the board or whether he was speaking on behalf of the government in terms of an indication that the government would be prepared through its votes on the Board of Internal Economy, whoever may hold them, to ensure that those bylaws were put forward.

Mr. Hawkes: One of the beauties of Bill C-79 and the changes is that the board continues through dissolution, promulgation—it could indeed be changed, but I would give him the assurance, and we definitely have enough votes to be able to see that the bylaw comes into place.

Mr. Murphy: Without insurance and with the assurance that the member for Ottawa—Vanier gave me privately on behalf of the Liberal Party, I would be willing to let the bill come to a vote.

• (1600)

The New Democratic Party caucus will still oppose the legislation, not because we are against Bill C-79—we have supported the work there—but because we believe the very issue we have been talking about today should have been put in the legislation. It is not that we doubt the word of the board. I think it will be in the by-laws that affect the House of Commons. However, my concern is that by not having that as a requirement we have no power to ensure that the Senate passes the same sort of by-laws.

Therefore we will oppose the motion before us, but we certainly do not oppose the intent of Bill C-79.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The first question is on the motion standing in the name of Mr. Hawkes.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

Some hon. members: On division.

Motion of Mr. Hawkes agreed to

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The next question is on the main motion.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Before you begin the ringing of the bells, let me indicate that there have been consultations.

There has been a request that we defer this vote to about 4.45 p.m. and therefore have a vote at 5 p.m.

However, that is on the understanding that upon the completion of that vote we would then move to the consideration of Bill C-98. No one would object to the normal motion for continuation of hours through to the completion of Bill C-98. It might take until 6.30 p.m. or 7 p.m. as a lot of members would like to make at least some input on it.

There would be general agreement that no party in the House intends to stop that motion for extended hour and that at the conclusion of that debate no party has the intention to have a recorded division at that point.

If we could just have that confirmation, we could defer the ringing of the bells until 4.45 p.m. for a vote at 5 p.m.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, assuming that right after this motion passes and/or Royal Assent we will immediately deal with the agricultural bill. The bells will start ringing at 4.45 for a vote at 5 p.m. and we will return to consideration of the agricultural bill.