

Yukon Act

same subject. We have Standing Order 15 which sets out the daily order of business and Standing Order 18 which sets out the precedence of business. What we would be doing now by accepting this motion would to my mind be changing this precedence. We would in effect be acting in contravention of Standing Orders 15 and 18. It is a motion which attempts to suspend the normal course of business and in my view it is a substantive motion which requires notice.

I would call the attention of the house to Standing Order 32(1) referring to motions which are debatable. Standing Order 32(1)(m) refers to the management of the business of the house and the arrangement of its proceedings. Perhaps this motion might be classified as a disarrangement of the business of the house, if not an arrangement.

I would also refer hon. members to citation 10 of Beauchesne's fourth edition to the following effect:

Standing Orders may be suspended for a particular case without prejudice to their continued validity, for the House possesses the inherent power to destroy the self-imposed barriers and fetters of its own regulations. It may even pass an order prescribing a course of procedure inconsistent with the Standing Orders. A motion for such temporary suspension requires notice under Standing Order 41—

For all these reasons I suggest to hon. members that there is no possible course open to the Chair but to refuse the motion as it has been presented by the Minister of Public Works.

To return to what I said at the outset, there may be a disposition on the part of the house to agree to a debate on this particular subject this afternoon. This, of course, would have to be by agreement, by unanimous consent of hon. members. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) rose but it was impossible for the Chair to know what he has in mind.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Cowan: There is not unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member refuses his consent.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask the leader of the house a question? In view of what has happened, will the government consider placing the necessary notice on the Order Paper so

[Mr. Speaker.]

that we can have time to debate this matter in the future without this kind of difficulty?

Mr. McIlraith: I will consider that suggestion carefully. It is becoming apparent that there would be lengthy debate on such a motion. We would have to consider the whole matter very thoroughly. Perhaps it would be better if I did not pursue this subject now because it is not before the house at the moment.

Mr. Knowles: Perhaps the hon. gentleman would call a meeting of the house leaders to see whether we can reach agreement.

Mr. McIlraith: The last one was 100 per cent unsuccessful, but I am always an optimist. I will consider another meeting this afternoon to see whether an agreement can be reached. It will be readily appreciated that all house leaders sometimes find difficulty in speaking for all the members of their parties.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I rise reluctantly to say at this point that after taking account of the mess the government has created with respect to this situation—we have wasted almost an hour and a half discussing it—I believe we should proceed with the business and pass the supplementary estimates and get the bills through before the afternoon runs out.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to call the attention of the house to the fact that there is before us now second reading of a bill moved by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. It was moved by Mr. Laing that Bill No. C-147, an act to amend the Yukon Act, be now read the second time.

Mr. McIlraith: In the light of what has transpired I am wondering whether the opposition house leader and the others leaders would agree that we adjourn the debate on the bill now before the house and proceed to consideration of the final supplementary estimates.

Mr. Starr: Would you repeat that, please?

Mr. McIlraith: I was suggesting that we should proceed immediately to consideration of the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Winch: Would the leader of the house check with the hon. member for York-Humber to see whether that is in order?

Mr. McIlraith: I am sorry if my remarks were not clear. I asked for unanimous consent to have the debate on the Yukon Act