

We consider that the establishment of a special budget committee with powers to change or reduce Estimates and to do a more careful examination of expenditures before the fact would add significantly to parliamentary accountability.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PROPOSED ADDRESS BY QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS— BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties with respect to the visit of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix next week. I think you would find unanimous consent to pass the following motion:

That, notwithstanding Standing Order 3(1), on Tuesday, May 10, 1988, the House shall meet at two o'clock p.m.;

That, for the purpose of the operation of the Standing Orders, such sitting shall be deemed to be a Wednesday, except that Private Members' Business shall be taken up between five o'clock p.m. and six o'clock p.m.;

That, the address of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands to be delivered in the House Chamber on Tuesday, May 10, 1988, at eleven o'clock a.m., before the Members of the Senate and House of Commons, together with all introductory and related speeches, be printed as an appendix to the *House of Commons Debates* of that day and form part of the records of this House; and

That, Her Majesty's address, together with all introductory and related remarks, be made available to the media for transmission in the usual way by the House of Commons broadcasting system.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Minister of State have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I want to confirm that there have been consultations and that there is a disposition on the part of the Official Opposition, both to give leave to have this motion presented and to agree to it.

However, I do want to ask the Deputy Government House Leader whether he can confirm that the Government is aware of Standing Order 22(2) which says:

Government Orders shall be called and considered in such sequence as the government determines.

I ask that question because during Question Period the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) seemed to suggest that the Government could not call certain pieces of legislation until certain other pieces were completed by this House. As far as I know, the Standing Orders make clear that the Government has complete control over what measures it calls and when it calls them during government time.

If necessary, Mr. Speaker, I will raise a point of order to ask you to confirm that this Standing Order is still part of our Standing Orders and is as much a part of them as any other

Motions

portion, so that any argument by the Government that it is being held up by the Opposition and prevented from calling something on the Order Paper which it wants to call, is completely inaccurate.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, if it would help my hon. friend, we could start each day by confirming that the Standing Orders are still in effect. The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) said that we have consistently followed a practice of trying to move legislation through the House. We are now being stymied by the Opposition and have had to bring in time allocation on a very important initiative for the Western Diversification Fund.

In view of the depleted number of Members in the Opposition, we have tried not to jam up too many things in one area. My hon. friend knows very well that the same people who considered the lobbying Bill will probably consider the Bill to which he refers. We have simply tried to manage the business of the House and the committees. He will find that it very soon goes to committee.

• (1510)

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps Hon. Members could assist the Chair. If there is a need to proceed with this, which is really a point of order, I will see Members in a few minutes.

I think it is probably procedurally more tidy to deal with one thing at a time. There is a motion before the House. I understand from the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) that there is agreement with respect to that motion which was put by the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis). Perhaps the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) could assist the Chair with respect to whether or not there is agreement to the motion.

If it is necessary to continue with a point of order, I will hear Members a little later.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, let me say that there have been complete and thorough consultations. In an effort to expedite the business of the House, we are prepared to enthusiastically lend our support to this order.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap and the Hon. Member for Windsor West. Does the Hon. Minister of State have unanimous consent to move his motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.