

Business of the House

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to say that we agree to the five-hour debate suggestion as provided for in the Standing Orders. Such is our position, a fairly simple one. It was agreed to three times by the representatives of these parties and each time we have been had.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The matter is getting slightly more complicated from moment to moment. Already 20 minutes have gone by since we resumed our work, and we still have not agreed on anything. My understanding is that the suggestion was made that the House pursue its sitting after the hour of adjournment for an undetermined period of time. The hon. member for Lotbinière suggests that there would be—I apologize to the House. I am now told that five hours have been suggested by the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please! That is the suggestion on which the Chair has to inquire whether there is unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimity?

Some hon. Members: Yea.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: It is difficult for the Chair to determine this. I am not sure whether I heard any no's. I will ask again, and I wish if anyone has a nay that he make it clear enough.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. That is clear enough.

Mr. Speaker: That clarifies the matter.

Mr. Bell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have checked and I find that at this moment there is a committee of the House sitting, the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee. I think it is very improper that while the question period, a very important procedure of ours, is continuing a committee of the House should be sitting. I think this makes a further sham of this Parliament. They should be instructed forthwith to cease their sitting until the orders of the day are called in this chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Motions.

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• (2020)

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ALLEGED NEED FOR COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF REVISION OF COMPETITION BILL—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing [Mr. Speaker.]

Order 43 to make the following motion seconded by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom):

That the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs be empowered to inquire into the allegation by Mr. Harold Buchwald, Chairman of the federally-appointed Canadian Consumer Council, that the government's decision to revise its proposed competition bill was an act of political expediency and that the government's decision was a result of an unbalanced dialogue since only two or three out of a total of 300 briefs represented consumer interests.

Mr. Speaker: The motion proposed by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway is put to the House under the terms of Standing Order 43. The Chair will inquire whether there is unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity and the motion cannot be put.

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ENERGY

ALLEGED NEED FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF CANDU PROGRAM AND SHORTAGE OF HEAVY WATER—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to move the following motion under Standing Order 43 seconded by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell):

That the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Public Works, be requested to give immediate attention to the many problems associated with the CANDU program of AECL and in particular those associated with the proposed partial shut-down of the Douglas Point Power Station, the start-up of the Pickering Three Power Station and the problems involved in the shortage of heavy water and that the committee report back to this House at the earliest possible date.

An hon. Member: Oh-ho—heavy water!

Mr. Speaker: Order. May we have order please. This motion which is proposed under the terms of Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House.

[Translation]

Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. The motion cannot be put.