

Mr. Churchill proposed to move,—That the House do now proceed to Order No. 134, namely second reading of Bill C-278, An Act respecting the occupational training of adults.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I am now prepared to make a ruling on the motion presented to the House a moment ago by the honourable Member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill). It has been brought to my attention—and I am sure honourable Members realize the difficulty with which the Chair is faced in connection with the motion presented by the honourable Member—that the order of business is, of course, according to our Standing Orders, proposed by the government itself. I draw the attention of honourable Members to Standing Order 18, which reads as follows: “(1) All items standing on the orders of the day, except government orders, shall be taken up according to the precedence assigned to each on the Order Paper.

(2) Except as provided in Standing Orders 43 and 56, government orders may be called in such sequence as the government may think fit.

An order has been called by the government today, and the only way we could proceed in accordance with the motion presented by the honourable Member for Winnipeg South Centre would be by suspending, with unanimous consent, the provisions of Standing Order 18.

There appears to be some doubt whether there is unanimous consent. I would ask the House whether there is unanimous agreement to suspend the provisions of Standing Order 18 so that I may put to the House the motion moved by the honourable Member for Winnipeg South Centre.

There is not unanimous consent. Before proceeding with my ruling I should also bring to the attention of honourable Members a decision which is in point. I refer to a ruling of Mr. Speaker, given on Monday, May 14, 1956, which is exactly on this point: “May I point out to the honourable Member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) that I cannot accept his motion because the order that is now before the House is a government order, and the other order that the honourable Member now considers we should proceed with is order No. 12, which is another government order, and government orders may be moved only by the Leader of the House. I would refer honourable Members to Standing Order 18(2).”

That is the Standing Order to which I have just referred.

There is also citation 136, which reads: “All motions referring to the business of the House should be introduced by the Leader of the House.”

The then Speaker considered that the motion could not be moved.

Bill C-243, An Act to amend the National Defence Act and other Acts in consequence thereof, was again considered in Committee of the Whole and progress having been made and reported the Committee obtained leave to consider it again later this day.

By unanimous consent, it was ordered,—That when the House resumes consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill C-243, An Act to amend the National Defence Act and other Acts in consequence thereof, the sitting be suspended until 8.00 o'clock p.m. this day.