

that at about this time this evening we might have reached the point where we would go into committee of the whole, and then those who wished to use the time to make what might be regarded as speeches could do so. This would allow us an opportunity to question the minister on the statement he now wishes to read into the record.

Perhaps we could make a compromise. If the minister would indicate that he was at least willing to answer questions, notwithstanding the fact that we would not be in committee of the whole, I think that would satisfy us and we could get on with the formal proceedings of the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** The Chairman has no choice but to ask all members if there is unanimous consent in response to the permission sought by the Minister of Finance to speak now. If there is not unanimous consent I cannot grant him that opportunity. If there is I will do so. But I cannot impose any conditions.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I think it is clear that there may be a misunderstanding on your part in respect of what has been suggested on this side, and I say that with great respect to yourself. What the hon. member for Calgary Centre and our financial critic have suggested is that we are prepared to allow the Minister of Finance to speak, but because we do not know what he is going to say, and we are very interested in knowing, as I am sure the nation is, we would like him to consent, as part of the unanimous consent, to a 15 minute question period. No doubt what he has to say will require some clarification. If the minister does not agree to that, then I must agree with your comments.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** With all due respect to hon. members, especially the hon. member who has just spoken, I must first seek the unanimous consent of the House in respect of whether the minister shall be recognized. If there is that consent, after he has been recognized hon. members can then ask whether there will be a question period, and that request may be granted. Before that, however, I must seek unanimous consent that the hon. Minister of Finance be recognized. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** There is not unanimous consent.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, the only reason hon. members said no was that the hon. member for Calgary Centre was recognized before dinner hour and deferred—

**An hon. Member:** Why shouldn't he?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. I have before me an amendment moved by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) to the effect that the bill be not now read a second time, but that the subject matter thereof be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and

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Economic Affairs, and the amendment goes on to offer certain instructions to that committee. Without getting into the difficult procedural problems respecting instructions to committees, I would simply draw the attention of the House to the fact that we are operating under a special order in respect of this bill which requires that it be given second reading, be considered in committee of the whole, reported, given third reading and passed before the adjournment of the House tonight. This amendment proposes an alternative procedure not provided for in the special order, and for that reason alone I regret that I must rule the amendment unacceptable.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** But it was a good idea.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with my remarks, so there is no misunderstanding, I should like to say—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order please. Is the hon. member seeking to be recognized for the purpose of discussing the bill or is he rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the point of order. I should like to ask for the unanimous consent of the House that the Minister of Finance be allowed to speak, followed by a 15-minute question period.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Members have heard again the proposal of the hon. member for Calgary Centre, that unanimous consent be given the Minister of Finance. Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Paproski:** Who said "no"?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** I asked whether there was unanimous consent and I heard a "no". Therefore, there is not unanimous consent.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

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**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** If the hon. member is seeking the floor on a point of order to make remarks that certain members have not been recognized, I do not think that is procedural and, therefore, I would not recognize the hon. member on that point of order. If the hon. member wants the floor on a point of order relating to the remarks made by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre), I will accept that.

**Mr. Paproski:** I would just like to explain to you, Mr. Speaker, that prior to the dinner hour we discussed this when I approached you at the chair and informed you that there was a possibility of a problem here. I knew there was going to be a problem. Now the minister wants to say a few words. It is fine