

National Defence Act Amendment

the second part because it says, "such an order". Prior to that only place the word "order" is used is the following:

For the purposes of this section, third reading shall be deemed to have been considered for one day provided the order for third reading is called—

I believe, Mr. Chairman, this is the place to which that word is related. I have to agree therefore with the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka and, infrequently but at least on this occasion, with the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, when they suggest there is no provision here for dispensing with private members hour. I have to agree also with them when they point out that the motion moved by the Minister of Transport, as reported at page 15119 of *Hansard* for April 20, makes no provision for dispensing with private members hour. Of course, private members hour would be suspended anyway if we were on third reading, where the order is given as has been pointed out. I suggest therefore there is no provision in standing order 15A to dispense with private members hour on any day except the day third reading is being considered, which we presume will be next Tuesday.

The Chairman: I should like to point out to hon. members who have taken part in the discussion of this point of order that the Chairman is confused, too. On January 21, 1964, when these provisional standing orders were agreed to, standing order 15A was included. I do not believe members of the committee will be surprised if I say that some days ago, when there was some inclination that standing order 15A would be invoked, the Chair spent considerable time studying 15A and its subclauses to decide exactly what was meant in different situations.

Standing order 16, which deals with private members business, in my view is the standing order which governs the ordinary practice with regard to private members business. I suggest to the committee that at the moment we are under a special order. I must admit that I cannot quite agree with the interpretation given to paragraph 7 of standing order 15A by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka, the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre or the hon. member for Medicine Hat.

I read paragraph 7 in this way:

No motion made by a minister under sections (5) and (6) of this standing order shall provide for the allocation of a period of time less than two days from the second reading, two days for the committee stage, and one day for the third reading of any bill.

Since second reading has been disposed of, that part of the rule does not apply. I continue:

For the purposes of this section, third reading shall be deemed to have been considered for one day provided the order for third reading is called as the first item under government orders on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, and provided it is continued, if necessary, until the normal time of adjournment on any such day.

Now I come to the phrase "such order". I think it is the duty of the Chair to interpret what this phrase "such order" means. It is the contention of the Chair that this phrase "such order" applies to the first part of paragraph 7 and not the second part, which refers to third reading. If this were not so, then I do not know how you would interpret the last sentence in this paragraph which reads:

Under any other circumstances, a total of five hours shall be deemed to be the equivalent of one sitting day.

It is my view that the phrase "such order" applies to the whole operation of this particular order under which we are operating and would indeed apply to second reading, to the committee of the whole stage as well as to third reading. I suggest the order having been called on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, it would have precedence over all other business until the time of adjournment of that day, unless disposed of earlier. I say again to members of the committee, there is a great deal of confusion in the mind of the chairman, so I quite understand the possibility of there being some misunderstanding on the part of hon. members.

However, it is the duty of the Chair to make a ruling in this matter, and my ruling will have to be that this particular part of paragraph 7 applies to the operation of standing order 15A in the committee of the whole stage. It is therefore my view that private members hour for today will be suspended.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I might ask your indulgence to rule also on standing order 16, which provides that the proceedings on private members business shall not be suspended by virtue of the operation of provisions of standing orders relating to the allocation of time to certain debates.

In the first instance I accepted the fact that this probably referred to the debate we had yesterday on allocation of time; but there again standing order 16 says that the proceedings on private members business shall not be suspended in relation to the allocation of time to certain debates. I raise this as a second