

Auditor General Act

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, further to the remarks made by the hon. parliamentary secretary. I am sure he would not want unintentionally to mislead the House or the country concerning the number of questions outstanding. The top question is No. 2823. He fails to take into account that all questions which have been answered have to be subtracted from that number to arrive at the number outstanding. There may be 400, 500 or 600 left to be answered. There are certainly not 2,800 left to be answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understood the parliamentary secretary to be referring to the number of questions he was attempting to answer, and not the ones outstanding.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the total number of questions which have been asked in this session. I am glad my hon. friend has drawn attention to the fact that we have done rather well in answering questions, in that more than 70 per cent have been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the revised practices of this month, it is my duty to inform the House that the questions to be raised at six o'clock this afternoon are as follows: the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche)—Canadian International Development Agency—Request for names of countries which allegedly do not honour their commitments—Attitude toward aid to Indonesia; the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp)—Immigration—Request for minister's permit for the Rae family.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

AUDITOR GENERAL ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-20, respecting the office of the Auditor General of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

[Mr. Coates.]

Mr. Speaker: There are seven report stage motions for which notice has been pursuant to Standing Order 75. On a very cursory examination of them, the Chair has serious misgivings about the first four. In my view, motions Nos. 1, 2 and 4 are related motions, in the name of the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), and motion No. 3 in the name of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). Upon my initial examination of them, the motions introduce a rather new proposal which goes beyond the scope of the clause of the bill which is sought to be amended by the motion.

I am prepared to hear argument from hon. members who are putting these motions forward at this time, which I will take under reserve. Then the House might want to proceed with consideration of motions Nos. 5, 6 and 7, if that is agreeable.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the government that my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), will not be here for another hour or so. I requested that discussion of the motions in his name, Nos. 1, 2 and 4, be deferred until a little later. I wonder if I could modify that request and ask that the discussion on the procedural aspects of motions Nos. 1, 2 and 4 be delayed until my hon. friend arrives from Winnipeg, as he will in an hour or so.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has just indicated, there were discussions earlier about how we might accommodate the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). It is certainly agreeable to the government if the items of business with which he is concerned could be stood aside until he arrives. Perhaps we could deal with other items in the meantime.

Mr. Speaker: That would leave us with some discussion on the procedural regularity of motion No. 3 in the name of the hon. member for Peace River. If the hon. member is prepared to do so, I might hear that argument now. Then the House could move to the discussion of motions Nos. 5, 6 and 7 until we receive some indication as to when the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) is prepared to defend the procedural aspects of his motions.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River) moved:

Motion No. 3.

That Bill C-20, an act respecting the office of the Auditor General of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto, be amended by inserting immediately after clause 8 the following:

"8.1(1) The House of Commons shall establish a committee to be styled the "Committee on Public Accounts" at the commencement of the first session of each parliament or within thirty sitting days thereafter.

(2) The committee shall be composed of nineteen members of the House of Commons appointed in accordance with the custom of the House and shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, have the same powers and be subject to the same rules as a standing committee of the House of Commons.

(3) The chairman of the committee shall be elected from among members who are in opposition to the government.

(4) Every report of the Auditor General made pursuant to this act and every report of the Receiver General, called the public accounts, laid before the House of Commons pursuant to the *Financial Administration Act* stands