

*Procedure*

The question the hon. member for Central Nova asked me yesterday was extremely pertinent. It seems that some absolutely irregular activities were going on between Air Canada and the McGregor travel agency. I have asked the President of Air Canada to be here at two o'clock this afternoon, and we will see to it that a full inquiry be launched so that we will know all the facts. In my opinion, the question asked by the hon. member for Central Nova was well founded, and I thank him for having raised it. How come I did not know of it before? The inquiry will show why I am not informed when there is something going on.

[English]

**Mr. Baldwin:** I have been trying.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** You know, there are so many things going on in the department that I do not know anything about.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

Fifth report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, in both official languages—Mr. Leblanc (Laurier).

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with respect to the report that has just been tabled. Yesterday the government House leader said that on Monday the House would be proceeding with Bill C-44. There was some discussion across the floor about the matter and there was discussion between us afterwards. Could the minister now tell us what bill we will be dealing with on Monday?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for asking his question. Because the weekend intervenes, we have decided to call Bill C-44 on Tuesday rather than on Monday. The business for Monday, unless there are further agreements among House leaders, will be the continuation or opening of debate on Bill C-20.

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● (1200)

#### EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED UNDER PROVISIONAL ORDER

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) having indicated his intention to make a statement on motions at this time, it becomes the first such statement to be made since the provisional, or experi-

[Mr. Marchand (Minister of Transport).]

mental order was invoked by the House to be effective on the first sitting day after the Easter break.

The terms and conditions under which statements on motions are to be made are not described in detail, but there are two points of guidance for the Chair. The first, taken from the report of the committee as printed in *Votes and Proceedings* of March 14, is the consensus that statements by ministers and responses thereto ought to be limited. The report of the committee reads in part as follows:

On statements by ministers, as listed in section (2) of this Standing Order, a minister of the Crown may make a short factual announcement or statement of government policy. A spokesman for each of the parties in opposition to the government may comment briefly thereon and members may be permitted to address questions thereon to the minister. Mr. Speaker shall limit the time for such proceedings as he deems fit.

Today we shall hear the first of such statements. I presume that the only guideline I can follow is that the minister's statement should be brief and factual—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nowlan:** Hope springs eternal.

**Mr. Speaker:**—and that there will be an even briefer statement by each of the opposition spokesmen. I say that it should be even briefer, because apparently the intention of the order is that there shall follow, at the discretion of the Chair also, a short question period in which members may address questions to the minister solely on the subject of his statement.

If, at the discretion of the Chair, questions may be asked following brief statements in response, it follows, surely, that statements in response must be extremely brief and concise in setting out the position of the party on whose behalf the member is speaking, because, as I say, there will be a brief period in which members in general will be at liberty to ask the minister questions.

That is the general procedure I propose to follow this morning. There will be a brief statement by the minister, a very brief comment by each opposition spokesman, followed, for a limited period, by questions.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, although we are all groping in the dark, Your Honour is doing so even more than some members, because at least some of us served on the procedure committee and know what we had in mind. I suggest that there was some feeling in the committee that it might be possible, for reasons of common sense, to allow the questions to precede the statement—

**An hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I do not want to debate the point. We cannot do it. I merely point out that if we are to respond to the statement, it is sometimes necessary to ask for clarification and inquire into meaning. I think that practice is followed in other jurisdictions, and I suggest that that is what we had in our minds.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With all respect to the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), I think Your