

Business of the House

revert to Government Notices of Motions. I suggest the Minister does not have the ability today, without the consent of the House, to return to the item he missed.

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Madam Speaker, I merely wish to draw your attention to the fact that the Hon. Minister was on his feet and was trying to get your attention to be recognized. I find it rather strange that Opposition Members should raise the issue now. I myself was looking around and trying to get the Chair's attention to have my colleague, the Minister, recognized so that he could put his motion. In my view, it is entirely appropriate that the Chair should recognize the Hon. Minister and allow him to finish reading his motion.

[English]

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, I do not want to make the matter more complicated than it has already become, but when the Minister gained the floor he asked whether we had passed that part in Orders where Ministers may make motions.

Mr. Nielsen: That is right.

Mr. Deans: The Speaker said, "I will revert to that." I think quite clearly the Minister asked whether we had passed that point; the Speaker, having recognized that we had, indicated that the Chair would revert to that stage. I heard the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) distinctly say, "Only with leave". I suspect on this occasion, at least at this point in time, that unless leave is forthcoming, I do not see how we can revert.

Madam Speaker: I will accept that judgment of the House. If the House does not want to give leave to revert, I just warn the House that that is a change of practice.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: Constantly we have reverted. However, we were at Motions. May I read to Hon. Members Standing Order 82:

A Minister of the Crown who from his or her place in the House at a previous sitting has stated that an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 80 or 81 in respect of proceedings at the stage at which a public bill was then under consideration either in the House or in any committee and has given notice of his or her intention so to do, may propose a motion for the purpose of allotting a specified number of days or hours for the consideration and disposal of proceedings at that stage:—

This can be done now under Motions.

Mr. Andre: With notice.

Madam Speaker: We are under Motions. It may be done under Motions at the usual time at which those notices are given.

Mr. Andre: With notice.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, with great respect, the Chair is being ill advised. I say that to the Officer who is advising her. Standing Order—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: In order to protect the Officers of the House from any interpretation which Members might have, the fact that this Officer is standing next to me does not necessarily mean he is advising me and the Hon. Member does not necessarily know what that Officer is telling me. Therefore, that comment is not welcome.

Mr. Ouellet: Withdraw!

Mr. Nielsen: I withdraw nothing. I have the greatest possible respect for every Officer at the Table and I stated so before that comment.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: If the Chair will study Standing Order 81, it refers to notice being given by a Minister rising in his or her place. The item which the Chair had reached in Routine Proceedings was Motions. The proper time for notice to be given under Standing Order 81 is on the item "Government Notices of Motions" which precedes the item in which the House is now engaged. The Minister knew that himself. He rose and asked whether we had passed that item. The Chair said yes, indeed we had, and that the Chair would revert.

With the greatest respect, Madam Speaker, it has always been the practice in this place that when we revert from an item reached on Routine Proceedings to another item preceding that item, it has always been by leave or with the consent of the House. The Chair has never arrogated to itself the discretion to make that decision.

I suggest to you, Madam Speaker, that there might be a procedural argument as to whether or not the Minister has a right to move such a notice at any stage of our proceedings in this House. That is another matter. I would maintain, of course, that the only place the Minister can give that notice is on Government Notices of Motion. We have passed that stage. We are on another item. We can certainly revert to the previous item of Government Notices, but only by leave of the House.

• (1510)

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, as with everything, it becomes more complicated as we proceed. I suggest, however, that for a Minister of the Crown to give notice he is required to gain the floor legitimately. He cannot rise under the pretext of doing something else and then give notice pursuant to Standing Order 82. I suggest that there is no provision for a Minister of the Crown, during this part of House business, to rise and give notice under Standing Order 82. What they would be doing is simply indicating that agreement could not be found to proceed under Standing Order 80 or 81.

While I think it wrong, on the basis of precedent I think it would be appropriate for a Minister of the Crown to rise in the afternoon during debate, as did the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) some time ago during the middle of debate, to indicate quite out of the blue that he or she wanted to give