

Government Orders

A wise government does that. It does listen and respond. Where possible, it attempts to seek the consensus of the nation and Parliament.

I do not know how we are going to improve our ability to speak for our constituents by being here eight weeks less a year. It may be very attractive to us not to be in the spotlight every day. I suspect it is more attractive to the government—

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. member for interrupting her.

There have been discussions among the parties, and I believe you will find consent for the following motion:

That on Friday, April 12, 1991 when Government Notice of Motion dated April 10, 1991 is called for debate no dilatory or superseding motions shall be receivable by the Chair and that at 2 p.m., April 12, 1991 or when no further members rise to participate in the debate, whichever comes first, said motion shall be deemed demanded put and carried on division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): So ordered.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could get some clarification from the government House leader on when the House is likely to reconvene. Can he give us an end point beyond which we will not recess? We appreciate that we are not supporting this motion, but at least we can give planning as to the maximum time of the recess period.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, it is the intention now to call the House back on May 13.

The reason for the flexibility in the motion is there may be a change in one or two days in either direction of that. There are a couple of things for which it would be useful to have that flexibility in order not to have to recall the House in order to get it.

I would give this assurance to the House leader of the New Democratic Party and to the leadership of the Liberal Party that should there be any change with

respect to May 13, it will only be after consultation with the leadership of both parties.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I think that is the assurance we are seeking. However, I guess what the minister is saying is that it might move a day or two around May 13. It would not be a week or a month or two, but simply a day or two. We can at this point be considering returning on May 13.

Mr. Andre: That is correct.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would hope you would take into consideration that Mother's Day is on May 12.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS**AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre (p.19027) and amendment of Mr. Dingwall (p.9156).

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, given the interruptions, perhaps you could remind me how much time I have remaining.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member will have until 4.40 p.m.

Mrs. Catterall: Can I clarify that, Mr. Speaker. I thought I had just barely started.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Pardon me, the hon. member will have until 4.50 p.m. Sorry about that.

Mrs. Catterall: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Cutting our time in this House by eight weeks, by 25 per cent every year, means 40 less Question Periods. It may be very comfortable for the government to escape the scrutiny of Parliament and of the public, but I do not think it is in the interests of good government.

How do we hold a government accountable if it is not here? How do we ask the questions that our constituents are asking us every day on the telephone or in letters? How do we look at the spending? How do we look at the actions of the government, and insist on explanations for Canadians so that Canadians can understand what their