Business of the House

Mr. Speaker: Hopefully the Chair will be in a position to make an announcement to the House at five o'clock when it announces whether or not there will be an adjournment debate. That might be the most convenient time for dealing with Standing Order 40, later this afternoon at five o'clock.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think there is general agreement to deal with the motion and with the question. I wonder if we could adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that we have some consultations and perhaps advise you later on with respect to the adjournment debate. I think there is a disposition in the House to agree with the terms of the motion.

Mr. Speaker: There is certainly no difficulty at the present time in making an order. The House could order at this time quite comfortably that it move at eight o'clock this evening to the consideration of Bill C-4 and that it continue this evening until the motion for second reading of Bill C-4 is put to the House. That much can be accomplished now. Perhaps after later consultation the rest of that can be particularized at five o'clock. It takes care of adjourning one debate and starting another and also takes care of the commitment of the House to finish the debate. If there is consultation about how to accommodate the adjournment debate or accommodate additional speeches, we can put that to the House at five o'clock. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It would therefore be with unanimous consent. Is there consent for the moving of this motion at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The President of the Privy Council has moved that at 8 p.m. this evening, Monday, November 26, the House shall proceed to the consideration of Bill C-4, to amend the Federal Business Development Bank, and that all questions necessary to dispose of the motion for second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs be put not later than 10 p.m. this evening. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, may I on a point of order tell the President of the Privy Council that we are quite prepared now to apply the same principle to the transportation of dangerous goods bill and deal with it from eight to ten o'clock tomorrow evening.

(1510)

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I want to thank the hon. gentleman as well as the leaders of the other parties; I believe there is support with respect to that matter. If there is, I am [Mr. Knowles.]

prepared to put a motion in similar terms in relation to it. Perhaps Your Honour could inquire whether there is consent.

Mr. Knowles: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to agree to the motion and what I am about to say now does not detract from that agreement. Indeed, I have had some discussion with the government House leader and I think he is willing that when we reach tomorrow evening, either we shorten all the speeches or we apportion the time among the parties. In other words, if we are allowed 40 minutes out of the two hours it could be left to us to decide whether to put up two speakers or three or four.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the House is again disposed, as it appears to be, to commit itself to two aspects, the first being that it will move at eight o'clock tomorrow evening to the consideration of a bill on the transportation of dangerous goods, and the second that the motion for second reading of that bill be put to the House later tomorrow evening, if the House will have committed itself in respect to both those aspects of the second reading debate on that bill, then it can later inform the Chair if there are details to be filled in with respect to the open part of the order about length of speeches, or accommodating the adjournment debate, extending hours, or anything of that nature.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): With what you have said in mind, Mr. Speaker, I should like to move—I know there are a number of seconders in the House:

That, at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, November 27, 1979, the House shall proceed to the consideration of C-25, an act to promote public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods; and that all questions necessary to dispose of the motion for second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications be put not later than 10 p.m.

Those are the terms of the motion and I undertake to carry out the necessary consultations with respect to the other matters.

Mr. Speaker: In order to allow full consultation perhaps I can make a slight alteration in the finalization time as I did in the earlier motion. It commits the House, it seems to me, to concluding the matter tomorrow evening but leaves it open to members to negotiate an extended hour, if that is to be the case

With that in mind I ask whether there is consent to putting this motion at this time.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The question is on the motion of the President of the Privy Council, seconded by the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?