

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SITTING HOURS TO GIVE
SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY FULL ALLOTTED DAY

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in view of the course which this afternoon's proceedings took, and in fairness to the members of the Social Credit Party who have given notice today that they would like to debate a question pursuant to Standing Order 58, I wonder if the House would be agreeable to extending the time of sitting today so that they would have full opportunity to debate the question which obviously was of primary interest to them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): In other words, I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps the House would be agreeable, by unanimous consent, to extending the time for today's sitting beyond the ordinary time of adjournment so as to permit those hon. gentlemen a maximum of four hours' debate on their motion. In that way they would be able to air the question which they gave notice of last night.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, despite what the minister has said I would like to point out that this matter of opposition days is decided. In this case, however, the government introduced a motion—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Woolliams: They certainly did.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, a statement was made in the House by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) concerning a matter of importance. This was followed by a motion from a government member to discuss that matter of immediate importance, and it has now been discussed. The government made a decision as to the disposition of that motion when it made a motion to adjourn the debate. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this obviously is a government day, and not an opposition member's day.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rise on a point of order, but what we have before us at the present time is a request for an order of the House to be made by unanimous consent. If there is not unanimous consent, then we would not proceed further with the matter. Other hon. members may want to express their views in relation to the point raised by the minister, but I do not think we should debate the matter. I believe there should be an indication of whether there is going to be unanimous consent or not.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I ask if the request for this is made under Standing Order 43?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Obviously not. On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should have known that this is the customary request by

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the acting House leader on a procedural basis. If some hon. members are not prepared to extend to hon. members in the Social Credit Party the courtesy of—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Obviously, we are not going to proceed very far on the basis of unanimity, and so I wonder if we might not proceed on motions, which is the item before the House now.

Mr. Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I fully appreciate Your Honour's desire that we go on with the business of the House, but I do not think we can afford, nor is it proper or fair to let the minister get away with a canard, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: It is, Mr. Speaker, the cheap trickery of the Liberal government,—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: —and not of anybody on the opposition side—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lewis: It is the fault of the government, not of the opposition.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Can we have order in the House? I wonder if I might not try to inquire if there is unanimous consent.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, as to the proposal made by the minister who was speaking on behalf of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), I should like to say that we are sorry about the present situation in the House. Before the House disposes of this motion, hon. members on both sides should certainly stop politicizing on the backs of the members of this party.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that again we are not making much progress. It would be much simpler for hon. members to indicate clearly whether there is unanimous consent; otherwise, we shall proceed with motions.

Mr. Fortin: This is exactly what I was about to suggest, Mr. Speaker. In a word, this is the situation: A government member has moved a motion under Standing Order 43.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

I must ask if there is unanimous consent; if not, we will go on to motions. I do not think there is any point in a debate as proposed by the hon. member for Lotbinière.