

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Patterson)—Penitentiaries—Optimum number of persons to be housed in institutions; the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman)—Statistics Canada—Voluntary responses to Stats-Can surveys.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills, private bills and notices of motions.

[English]

Is it agreed that order No. 9 standing in the name of the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Siddon) be allowed to stand by unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Agreed and so ordered.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

### CANADIAN SOLAR ENERGY INSTITUTE ACT MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

**Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport)** moved that Bill C-210, to establish the Canadian Solar Energy Institute, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Before I allow the House to begin consideration of Bill C-210, I hope hon. members will allow me a few comments.

The Chair is again faced with the decision of allowing or not consideration of a private member's bill that has been published on the order paper and has passed first reading, along with a group of some 250 private members' public bills, at the beginning of this session on October 30. I find it difficult to take some of the time that could be made available for the discussion of such a bill for a procedural debate. Hon. members are aware that at the beginning of every session the Chair is in the position of having to authorize such first readings without having had a chance to pass judgment on the procedural acceptability of this group of bills, but at the same time it informs the House that it reserves the right, before consideration at second reading stage, to declare any such bill out of order due to irregularities or infringement of the rules or practices of the House.

### *Solar Energy*

Because Bill C-210 was expected to come up for consideration at any time during the last few weeks, I have had an opportunity to examine it thoroughly in relation to our Standing Orders and practices, as I indicated I would at the conclusion of my comments on Bill C-204 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) on November 9, 1978.

I might inform hon. members that I have in front of me pages of precedents that I could use to declare this bill procedurally unacceptable. On the other hand, I accept the fact that hon. members might have other views on the matter and might want to express a different opinion based on different precedents. I feel that hon. members would have difficulty convincing me that this bill does not infringe upon the financial initiative of the Crown. On the other hand, before making such a decision, I would normally invite hon. members to express their opinion. This would bring about a long procedural debate which would use up most of the time available for consideration of private members' business today.

To save time, I plan to put some remarks on the record suggesting to the House such changes in our Standing Orders to provide for a set period of time that could be made available, probably between the hours of six and eight—the ideal hours when we can do everything we cannot do during the day—such time to be made available outside private members' hour, to permit such procedural debates without reducing in any way the time available for consideration of private members' business.

Coming back to Bill C-210, I must point out to the House that clause 3(2) of the bill provides for the appointment by the governor in council of five persons who, together with others who may become members, shall constitute the Canadian Solar Energy Institute. The Interpretation Act makes it clear that the power to appoint includes the power to pay, therefore, because the governor in council could choose to pay a salary to these members, the bill clearly involves an appropriation of a part of the public revenue.

Might I also underline the fact that when a similar bill was presented by the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) in 1977, it provided that members of the institute would serve without remuneration, but that condition does not appear in the bill now before us. This does not mean that I approve of such provision included in a bill for the sole purpose of bypassing the Standing Orders or the BNA Act which require a recommendation from the Crown for the appropriation of public revenue. But the fact that this condition is left out this time makes us question it.

I also have some questions as to the financial implication of clause 4 of Bill C-210 which is meant to set the objects of the institute, which are to facilitate the production of solar energy equipment, to sponsor, encourage and promote research, and to prepare, compile, publish and distribute information. I find it difficult to believe that these objectives could be achieved without some substantial expenditures, at least for an initial undetermined period, or until sufficient sources of revenue are developed. Of course, this could only be of indirect conse-