

*Routine Proceedings*

Next, the sixth recommendation is that the decision as to which committees shall meet in this room will be made by the House leaders. That is a very good recommendation and I think an important point should be raised here. Despite what some people might think from time to time, parliamentarians are not always arguing strenuously. In general, there is good cooperation among the various parties in the House. For example, as you know, Mr. Speaker, most bills are passed in Parliament without a recorded division but by a simple oral vote. The opposition does not challenge everything, whatever people may think. When asking students in my riding whether they think the government introduces all the legislation and the opposition always votes against the government, the answer is always yes. Well that is not the case. In fact, the vast majority of bills are adopted by all sides of the House. Motions are adopted by unanimous consent practically every day by this Parliament, sometimes several times a day. This is something people are not generally aware of, and I think we should make this clear.

• (1340)

It will be up to the three House leaders to decide which committees will be broadcast from the new room specially equipped for this kind of activity. Incidentally, I do not know whether the room has already been chosen. I see the hon. member for Saint-Denis, who is an expert on the subject, and I hope it will be Room 237C, a very nice room on Parliament Hill which lends itself to this kind of thing and should be used more often.

I also wish to inform the hon. member for Saint-Denis, considering his expertise, that I think Room 237C could also be used by the media to broadcast their comments on the budget, for instance. I saw the scene in front of the House of Commons on budget day. There was an atrocious tangle of cables and wires of every description. People were crowded against each other. There were strangers all over the place, even in the entrance to the House of Commons. It was not a pretty sight. We should move whatever is done outside the House on budget day, or when we have other important speeches such as the Speech from the Throne, to Room 237C, which is a very nice room and will now be equipped for the TV cameras.

This was for the information of the hon. member for Saint-Denis. I know he is busy taking notes.

Finally, the committee's seventh recommendation is that all committees of the House of Commons, including standing, legislative and special committees, would be entitled to meet in the specially equipped room to have their meetings broadcast, provided that priority shall be given to those committees that do not have a special order from the House permitting any meeting or series of meetings to be broadcast, I think that is self-explanatory, because the room is used even when committee proceedings do not have to be broadcast on television.

This was a very brief explanation of the subject of today's debate, but I think it is important to know to what extent the motion is supported by members of this House. Today, several members spoke out in favour of this initiative, and I hope that other members, including my very distinguished colleague from York South-Weston, will find time to rise in the House before the end of the day and express their support for this motion.

I know that since this morning, the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas has been gearing up for a major speech on the subject. I hope there will be enough time to accommodate everyone who wishes to speak. If there is not enough time, perhaps we could continue this debate next week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. There are several days on which we could discuss these issues, and perhaps we could take a few more days and continue this important debate.

I am sure that many other members will also want to comment on this.

With this, I will conclude my brief comments on that subject. I will, of course, reiterate my support for this initiative and congratulate all the members of the Standing Committee on House Management for the excellent work they did in relation with report number 23.

[*English*]

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleague from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell with great interest.