

chief executives of our chartered banks. He could say to them, "Look, this is not the NDP simply making a charge; this is the Canada labour relations board rendering a decision".

The minister well knows that while a quasi-judicial body like the Canada labour relations board is in a position to take certain decisions on the basis of organizing drives which come before it, it is not in a position to pass judgment on drives which never get off the ground because of the over-all attitudes expressed by chief executive officers of these banks in inter-bank memos. I think both those things are advisable. It is not being irresponsible; it is a question of doing something which responds to the needs of those employees which, in terms of numbers, is the largest potentially organizable group outstanding under federal jurisdiction. The minister does not have a responsibility to say that they are automatically unionized. That is not what we are saying, but I know the minister, with his experience in the labour relations field and as a labour relations lawyer, understands the importance of the government taking the lead by indicating that it wants to see the provisions of the Canada Labour Code lived up to. He should indicate that he intends to take some action to see that the chartered banks are not given tremendous security by the government while their employees are given none.

● (1700)

I want to indicate in closing that we support this bill, this extension, and that this is not an act of filibuster on our part. We are attempting to raise issues which are of real concern to us. I think the minister would agree we have had good discussions in committee and we look forward to further discussions to ensure that the legislation which is passed controlling our chartered banks is legislation reflecting the public interest and not simply the narrow interests of those people who happen to own our largest financial institutions.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I am told that the private members' hour will last 45 minutes; if I could have the unanimous consent of the House, we could, in accordance with the discussions we have had earlier, pursue the study of this measure at the committee and report stages and go on to third reading afterwards. If my colleagues would grant me the consent required, we could dispose of this bill very quickly and then proceed with the private members' hour which would last less than an hour.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. The hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) has relieved the Chair of a difficulty in that there was some indication or some understanding on the part of the Chair that there might be consent to move into Committee of the Whole on this bill. I should dispose of matters relating to the adjournment motion, and perhaps while doing that hon. members can consider their

Bank Act

decision in respect of the suggestion that we do move into Committee of the Whole on Bill C-39.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): 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 Central Nova (Mr. MacKay)—National Energy Board—Application for gas pipeline to Nova Scotia; the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale)—Human Rights Act—Call for amendments to provide protection against discrimination of disabled citizens; the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett)—Industry—Terms of loan to Valleyfield Chemical Products Corporation—Investigation of Space Research Corporation.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BANK ACT AND QUEBEC SAVINGS BANKS ACT

MEASURE TO EXTEND OPERATION UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 1980

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Bussières (for Mr. MacEachen) that Bill C-39, to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): May I say that the hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) has indicated there is a motion before the House to refer Bill C-39 to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, but he has suggested the House might agree to referring the bill to Committee of the Whole. In essence he seeks the unanimous consent of the House in that regard.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to say that we are agreeable that the bill be referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Gamble: Mr. Speaker, could I inquire of the government House leader whether he intends that we deal with any other matter between quarter to six and six o'clock?

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as soon as we finish with the bill on banks.

[English]

As soon as we finish with that, and I am told that will be done very quickly, we will move to private members' business, which will take less than 45 minutes today.