

This proposed addition to the rules will allow the broadcasting of committee proceedings. Now, not everyone, Mr. Speaker, likes this proposed rule. It would show who is in attendance at committees. It may show that good questions could get swamped by asinine showmanship.

Like the committee members themselves, all Canadians would have the chance to be involved in the legislative process. We can choose to be responsible and efficient. We are elected to be efficient, Mr. Speaker, and we are equal to that task.

Bring television into the process of the House. Then the television media persons would have the choice of showing clips of the work of members who do not normally qualify for consideration. You can sit at home and watch your member at work.

[*English*]

This is visible democracy, Mr. Speaker. It is accountability. It is seen to be responsible.

Some of the hon. members opposite may be rubbing their hands together in glee with the anticipation of a further chance for a quasi-Question Period. Indeed, some government members may not like this proposed change either. It may show a tie askew, a hair out of place, a look of bewilderment as a bureaucrat drones on about some esoteric point of legislation.

[*Translation*]

I don't think that will happen. I think that the reality of hard work, of knowledge, of dedication, of sincerity and indeed co-operation among members will show through.

Mr. Speaker, these proposals include various changes to the rules on Private Members' Business. I do not want to go into detail on these specifically, but I do think that some general comments are needed.

As a former Deputy Speaker and now as a minister, I know very well that members can produce relevant and well-thought out pieces of legislation. Some of these proposed laws eventually wind through the lengthy process now in place and become law. I cite as an example Bill C-223, in the name of the New Democratic Party member for Churchill, which concerns a day of mourning for persons killed or injured in the workplace. I cite also Bill C-239, changing the name of the riding of

Government Orders

the Liberal member for the electoral district of Saint-Laurent. And the third example, Mr. Speaker, is the well-prepared Bill C-258 from the hon. member for Etobicoke, which established the Centennial Flame Research Award to publicize the contributions of persons with disabilities to Canadian public life.

I cite these as three examples of private members' legislation which received royal assent and are now Canadian law. But, and this is a big but, at this moment, more than 150 bills remain on the Order Paper, along with more than 700 motions of private members.

• (1730)

Mr. Speaker, something must be done. It is a lottery, a game of chance. It is what ordinary members know as the dreaded time to choose. Will my motion be chosen? Will my bill ever be debated through all stages, through to becoming law? The answer, sadly, is that there is very little hope of this happening in the limited time available. So we propose sitting longer in the day. We propose smoothing out some aspects of Private Members' Business. What we have before us are proposals that have been discussed and negotiated and talked over and changed and modified.

We must do two things, Mr. Speaker. First, complete this debate and vote on these changes.

Second, begin the next round of negotiations to have a second package of changes to the Standing Orders for June.

Given the statements made in the speeches by the House leaders of the New Democratic Party and the Official Opposition, pursuant to Standing Order 57, I give notice that at the next sitting of the House, immediately before the calling of the Order of the Day for resuming the debate on Government Motion 30 concerning amendments to the Standing Orders of the House and on any amendment thereto, I shall move that the debate not be further adjourned.

[*English*]

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the minister's speech. I will reserve my comments on the closure he has given notice of until another time. It may or may not happen.