

Borrowing Authority

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Call in the Members.

[And the division bells having been rung.]

● (1800)

Madam Speaker: It is now almost 6 p.m. and before leaving the chair, I wish to assert its prerogative and make a brief statement. This morning, early in the day's proceedings, the Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) moved a motion for the adjournment of the House. A division was called, but the Whips have not indicated in the usual manner that the House is ready to vote. It is therefore my view that, in the circumstances which presently face us, the provisions of Standing Order 8(1) must supersede the adjournment motion moved earlier. I am sustained in this view by the citation on page 295 of the nineteenth edition of Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice which states:

Dilatory motions, i.e. motions for the adjournment of the House or of the debate or that the chairman do report progress, or do leave the Chair, pending at the moment of interruption, lapse without question put.

Our Standing Orders make no reference to this particular situation and the House has provided no solutions to this particular procedural problem. In the present circumstances, I believe it is in the interest of the House that I should take an initiative.

As far as the Chair is concerned, the dilatory motion moved this morning sought a decision of the House as to whether or not it should adjourn. The issue was as simple as that. As the House had not seen fit to vote on this motion by 6 p.m., I have decided that Standing Order 8(1) must come into force. The normal procedures of the House, including the right to move dilatory motions, are not thereby affected and will continue to be available to Hon. Members. The convention whereby the Whips indicate when the House is ready to vote is also not affected.

The motion has therefore lapsed and in terms of Standing Order 8(1) the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

At 6.02 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.