

Business of the House

Standing Order should have been drafted, but certainly it is drafted in such a way that the Chair must take into account what must be considered by the House, in accordance with the practice and precedents, to be the recognized parties of the House. I appreciate the difficulty where one, three, five or ten independent members of this House are opposed to the motion proposed by the President of the Privy Council. In a way their rights would not be given the same recognition as those of other hon. members who are represented by a representative of the parties as provided by the Standing Order. My answer to the hon. member would be that I have to deal only with the representatives of existing parties as indicated in the Standing Order.

Mr. McIntosh: I now rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do so for the purpose of moving what I call a privileged motion. I move under Standing Order 24, seconded by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Downey):

That Orders of the Day be now read.

I would like to add, "in particular order No. 90", but if that part of my motion takes away from the first part, I will omit it.

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. After a brief consideration and consultation, my interpretation and understanding of Standing Order 75 are that it directs that the motion be put forthwith. I would think that the motion proposed by the hon. member, being a superseding motion, would have to be moved while there is a matter under debate by the House, and could not be put by way of a point of order. The hon. member himself indicated that he rose on a point of order. According to the precedents, he cannot move a superseding motion on a point of order. Perhaps later on the hon. member might have some other remedy, but at this point I doubt that his motion is acceptable procedurally.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, while I have been an interested spectator for the last few minutes, I have been wondering about one aspect of the motion which the President of the Privy Council has put. I know it is not debatable, and not amendable. I accept that. However, the hon. gentleman did make a very short statement at the beginning, prior to putting the motion, and I am simply seeking guidance with respect to it. I intend to respond very briefly to that statement, and while we are feeling our way I will put it in the hands of the Chair to cogitate whether I am entitled to do so.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. members want to allow the hon. member for Peace River to make a statement, there is certainly no objection on the part of the Chair. But again the Standing Order is clear. The Chair must be guided by Standing Order 75A which requires that the motion be put without debate. If hon. members allow the hon. member for Peace River to make a statement, I just wonder how the Chair could legitimately and equitably prevent other hon. members from making statements. However, I am in the hands of the House. Is there agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is agreed that the hon. member for Peace River has the unanimous consent of the House to make a statement in response to the statement made by the President of the Privy Council.

Mr. Baldwin: My comments simply refer to the addenda which the President of the Privy Council produced in regard to the amendment which the Minister of Agriculture was going to move. This was quite correct. I simply want to say that it is our distinct understanding that the minister will attempt to secure, by all means possible, consent to putting before the House the amendment, of which we are aware, but that if he is unsuccessful, if the practices and procedures of the House do not permit this amendment by the Minister of Agriculture, and again I say that we are aware of the contents of it, there will be an undertaking given that at the earliest possible opportunity the government will introduce amending legislation to bring this about. Because we are talking about agreements on which this motion is founded, I did think I was entitled to make this very brief comment.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, first may I confirm the statement of the President of the Privy Council that this motion is before us because the representatives of all of the parties have agreed to it. I might add that the consultations, although very lengthy, have been amicable, and indeed now appear to have been fruitful.

However, on closely reading the text of the motion—and perhaps I should raise this as a point of order—I think there is one point on which we had agreed which has not been included. We agreed not only that the debate on motion No. 1 on clause 18 and on motion No. 27 would be limited to 90 minutes, but that if those were cleared and we had remaining time between that time and ten o'clock, that any other motion would be considered for only 90 minutes. Thus, the whole afternoon or evening would not be spent on one of those motions. It is true that the minister showed us the statement at about five minutes to two, but at that time I did not notice the omission. I believe he will agree with me that our agreement would be reflected more accurately if at the end of paragraph 3 these words were added:
—provided that the consideration of any such motion shall not exceed 90 minutes.

While the minister is noting that, I may say that I thought we also understood that we would use Private Members' hour for this purpose today but maybe it was not intended to put that in the actual agreement but rather to deal with it when five o'clock comes. However, I do think that the point I made a moment ago should be included in the motion.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): I just want to confirm, regarding negotiations which have been held this morning, that we have given our agreement concerning the motion introduced a few minutes ago.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps by consent we might allow the hon. member for Joliette to speak. This, of course, has to be done by consent because I assume we are now hearing statements under the terms of the Stand-