

No. 79

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1969.

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2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

One petition for a Private Bill was presented in accordance with Standing Order 67(1).

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: As honourable Members know, last Thursday the Government House Leader announced the anticipated order of business for this week and, in accordance with his forecast, Wednesday and Thursday were set aside for the purpose of considering an opposition motion.

A question of procedure has arisen in that under a special order of the House the sitting is suspended tomorrow, Tuesday, January 28, in order to enable honourable Members to participate in the work of the various standing committees.

Subsection 4(a) of Standing Order 58 provides as follows: "Twenty-four hours' written notice shall be given of an opposition motion on an allotted day or of a notice to oppose any item in the estimates."

The question that has arisen is whether or not the notice referred to in the standing order can be filed on a day when the sitting of the House is suspended. In my opinion it is open to honourable Members to file their notices tomorrow or, indeed, on any day when the sitting of the House is suspended as distinct from being adjourned. I would advance the following reasons for adopting this attitude.

In the first place, the standing order itself states that 24 hours' written notice shall be given. A similar provision is also to be found in subsection 5 of Standing Order 75 for the filing of notice of amendments to be considered at the report stage of bills. It seems to me it should be open to honourable Members to file notices of their questions for the Order Paper and notices of motions or bills they may have in mind; and, generally, it should also be open to the government to file their notices without losing the day. There is also