Business of the House

hon. member for Edmonton West or is not what he wanted to see in the rule itself—is observed whether or not the Chair thinks it is right. Again I say with all respect to the hon. member that I agree with much of what he has said in the sense that certainly hon. members do not have an opportunity to debate or vote on certain items in the estimates, but that is not the responsibility of the Chair. It should be the responsibility of all hon. members who feel a better procedure should be evolved to get together and see that the procedure is changed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

Fourth report in both official languages of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders—Mr. Duquet.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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• (1430)

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PROPOSAL FOR PASSAGE OF CERTAIN BILLS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I want to make a brief statement with respect to the business of the House. Yesterday, after some discussion, I undertook to reconsider a package of legislation that might be passed without debate and about which we had almost reached unanimity. As a result of that reconsideration, I am prepared to make a further proposal which involves the deletion of one of the items included yesterday, the addition of another item, and the progression of a third. Possibly hon. members will find a basis for unanimous agreement.

May I begin with government order No. 17, Bill C-135, residential mortgages, which involves the report stage and third reading. I understand there was no difficulty with respect to that.

The second item is government order No. 43, Bill C-190, the Canada Pension Plan No. 1, having to do with the Hutterites or Mennonites. I note that the hon. member for Crowfoot exercised his undoubted right to dissent from giving unanimous consent, and because of that I am prepared to delete this item from the package of proposals. However, because the government attaches importance to its passage, I certainly will seek the conclusion of this bill before adjournment or the prorogation of the House.

The next item is the Parole Act, Bill C-191, involving a report stage amendment and third reading. Yesterday there was no dissent on that point.

The next item is Bill S-4, national parks, for which I sought second reading. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre advanced my proposal and said he would be prepared to carry the bill all the way, including third reading. I am therefore putting that forward as part of my proposal, which I think is sensible.

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In addition, I am prepared to suggest Bill C-211, the family allowances bill, concurrence at the report stage, third reading and passage.

Finally, I am making an addition that was not included in my package at any time yesterday, Bill C-224, the Canada Pension Plan Bill No. 2.

If we could agree to deal with these items without debate through all their stages, I would be pleased to suggest that it be done now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, the House leader did not give us any notice, of course, of what was to be in this package, both new and old.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: We are primarily concerned with the family allowance bill and the Canada Pension Plan bill because they are welfare legislation, and we object to the fact that they are being used as bargaining items and as blackmail.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: The House leader has changed his mind on the order of priority of some of these bills. For example, the Hutterite bill was not on the first list of priorities and it has now been moved to the secondary list.

Mr. MacEachen: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, this is an absolute mistake on the part of the hon. member. If he will look at the list I mentioned yesterday, he will see that the first item on the list was CPP No. 1—the very first.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): He protesteth too loudly.

Mr. Bell: The House leader is carried away with excitement about next Monday. We realize that it is a very difficult time for the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: However, I did not refer to any list of yesterday. I referred rather to the priority list of last week which I have in front of me which contains the seven bills that were discussed at the House leaders' meeting. The list of seven bills does not include this particular bill, and the House leader can check this.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Withdraw!

Mr. Bell: In view of the mistakes the House leader made yesterday, the ones he has made now and the fact that

[Mr. Speaker.]