

Federal Business Development Bank Act

might be possible to reach agreement to conclude the debate on both motion No. 1 and motion No. 4 this evening, and then have a deferred vote at whatever time Your Honour feels is appropriate. I think that the House leaders and yourself have agreed.

The point I want to make is that this is an important bill. The whole question of extending loans to small businesses in Canada has been seriously slowed down awaiting the provisions in the bill, and I hope that all members in the House can join in agreeing this evening to an expeditious completion of the bill on the report stage. On that basis I would be prepared to go ahead.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, further to the same point of order that the acting House leader has brought up. I would ask whether the acting House leader would agree that we not proceed with third reading until the deferred vote that he has mentioned can be held on the report stage. If we could have that assurance, I think we could proceed with that kind of arrangement.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, surely the answer to that point is obvious. We cannot proceed to third reading until the report stage is over.

Mr. McKinley: But I am not sure the minister knows it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to comment on something the minister said a moment ago. In my view he was right, up to the point where he said that the debate on motions Nos. 2 and 3 is now concluded. But then he got off base a bit when he said that the confusion is about the deferred vote but on which motion to vote on first. I thought that Your Honour had that straightened out a moment ago when you suggested we vote first on motion No. 3. If it carries, then that is the last vote, but if it is defeated, then you can put motion No. 2. I think Your Honour was right a few moments ago.

● (2100)

Mr. McKinley: That does not answer my question.

Mr. Gillespie: In answer to the acting House leader's question to me, Mr. Speaker, I would agree that the vote on the motion take place, of course, at the report stage before we move on to third reading. I would suggest that the timing of the deferred vote be a matter of discussion between House leaders, but that the deferred vote should take place on each of those motions at the same time. I am not expressing any opinion as to which should come first. That opinion has been asked of the Chair, and it is something on which all members of the House would look to the Chair for guidance.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, in view of what the acting government House leader has said, we were wondering whether it would be possible to have these deferred votes next Tuesday, immediately following orders of the day.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is an opposition day.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, for our side I say yes.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, now that there is some agreement as to how to proceed, perhaps it might be made an order of the House so that on Tuesday the vote could be taken automatically on all four motions. This might save some trouble.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Just a minute, Mr. Speaker. My friends of the Social Credit Party are justifiably muttering that they do not want time taken out of their opposition day for three or four recorded votes.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, in a spirit of co-operation may I suggest that perhaps we could do it Wednesday after orders of the day.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Reid: Could we have a House order, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The House has heard the suggestion. By unanimous consent the vote on motion No. 2 is deemed not to have been taken. Motion No. 2 stands. The question would be put on motion No. 3 and deferred. Is it so ordered?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Reid: Could I make that clear, Mr. Speaker, that the votes on all four motions will be taken on Wednesday after orders of the day. Is that the understanding?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Is that agreed?

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, we would agree provided we stay on this item until report stage is concluded.

Mr. Gillespie: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I thought we had reached agreement on the basis that we would complete debate on the motions this evening and had agreed to the deferred vote. We have already finished the debate on motions Nos. 2 and 3, and the suggestion I made was that we conclude debate on the remaining motions this evening and have a deferred vote at a later date.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there was no agreement that two motions would be dealt with in the next 55 minutes. It may take an hour of tomorrow's time, or two hours, or an hour and a half. But it would be done before Wednesday. There is no doubt about that. However, we did not say we were going to be limited to 55 minutes. We have taken up 30 minutes discussing this procedural problem tonight. I do not think there was any agreement of the House that we would limit ourselves to 55 minutes.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Is it agreed that the House now proceed to consideration of motion No. 4?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I thought you were going to put the vote on motion No. 3 so that we could defer it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.