

Ontario-Quebec Relations

the government majority were seated in the far end of the chamber. But this government, due to its feeling of power over and control of the people of this nation—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKinley: —have decided that those hon. members should be seated there. I think it is time this should be changed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I appeal to hon. members to accept the suggestion put forward by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley that we call it ten o'clock.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Lotbinière rising on a point of order?

Mr. Fortin: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Considering the very serious nature of the situation and the dilemma in which we find ourselves, I would like to say that it is not happily that we are fighting in order to obtain respect for the rights of the minorities in the House. But we would like to have it clearly stated that, first of all, our Standing Orders give us the right to one opposition day; secondly, that this right has today been trampled underfoot by persons who have abused a provision of the Standing Orders which is ridiculous, and the first victims of such a situation are my colleagues and myself.

Mr. Speaker, we have listened to hon. members opposite all day long and I hope now that they will be kind enough to listen to us.

Finally, I should like to say that all afternoon, as leader of the House for my party, I have attempted without result to hold talks with representatives of all other parties in order that this right be respected and that we get down to serious business. I have even put a motion to this effect.

Three times, they have come to us in order to reach an agreement and three times, we have been misled. In fact, we, have been masterfully taken in by people who are more concerned with playing politics than carrying out the business of this House. The net result, Mr. Speaker, is that you have had your fill—with all due respect—and so have we. The only thing we want is the formal recognition that our party is on an equal footing with the others, and therefore entitled to an opposition day just like the other parties. When some day the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals understand this, there will be order in the House, but not before.

• (2140)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again, I suggest we might call it ten o'clock but the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Lewis: I do, Mr. Speaker, on another subject and I do it on a point of order with apologies to you, Sir,

[Mr. McKinley.]

because we may not reach the question period. It is obvious that the motion that was moved by the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle) is of great importance to Canada and of great concern to this Parliament. Because of that, Mr. Speaker, I should like, through you, to ask the Acting House Leader whether he would guarantee that that motion would be brought forward tomorrow for a continuance of the debate which was adjourned earlier—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: Hold it a minute—just wait a minute—for the continuance of the debate which was adjourned today if our party were—and in its name I offer—to give up tomorrow, our opposition day, for the purpose of continuing that debate, understanding full well that if we do that we will lose one of our opposition days. I should like to ask the Acting House Leader, if I do that on behalf of our party, if he will guarantee to bring forward the motion of the hon. member for Fraser Valley East tomorrow so that the debate may be completed and the motion voted on by the members of this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I understand the hon. member's proposal, it is that the motion put in the name of my colleague, the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Pringle) would become the subject matter, if the hon. member likes, of tomorrow's allotted day which was to be in the name of the hon. gentleman's party. In that case, if the House could perhaps recognize that the subject matter of the motion would be changed from the one he has given notice of to that of the hon. member—

Some hon. Members: No, no!

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister obviously did not understand me, though I thought I made myself clear. It is my understanding that when a debate is adjourned the matter becomes a government order. What I am proposing is that we will give up our opposition day, not only give up tomorrow but give up one of our opposition days so that we are left with one rather than two, if the minister will agree that he, as Acting government House Leader, will bring forward that motion which is now a government order.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, if the House is prepared to make an order this evening to reduce the number of outstanding allotted days by one, as the hon. member has suggested, that is for the balance of this part of the session, I will be quite agreeable to bringing forward the order standing in the name of my friend from Fraser Valley. If we are in agreement on the reduction of the number of allotted days by one in this case, I will be quite agreeable to calling that as the first order of business under government orders tomorrow.

An hon. Member: That is twisted.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, that was clearly what I suggested, though I did not put it quite the way the minister does because if that debate ends at two o'clock or three o'clock tomorrow, then it is possible to spend an hour or two on the motion that we now have on the order paper. I am,