

*Motion Respecting House Vote*

I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that this is out of order, that the house should not be asked to vote on a motion which implies that we come back tomorrow to deal with another matter before we have dealt with the question of the confidence of the house in the government.

In support of my contention that at this moment the government does not have the confidence of the house may I refer to the Prime Minister's proposed motion. It is a matter of constitutional understanding in this country that we do not proceed with business unless the government has the confidence of the house, and the motion—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is debating the constitutional position now. This is not what is before the house, although I must bring to the attention of the house that I have not received a written motion with a seconder. The Prime Minister should put this in the hands of the Chair before the motion can be put.

**Mr. Starr:** They don't do anything properly.

**Mr. Knowles:** May I continue with my point of order, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that perhaps we might allow the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre to finish his point of order pending receipt of the motion.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** We will not be throttled.

**Mr. Knowles:** My point of order is that the government has no right to place before the Chair a motion which implies that we shall deal with other business. The government has admitted by its motion that there is a question as to whether it has the confidence of the house. We contend that it does not have that confidence. A motion that we adjourn which merely means that we adjourn until tomorrow implies that tomorrow we will deal with other business before we have settled the question of confidence. I suggest that the motion is therefore clearly out of order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker—

• (3:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Pearson:** May I repeat my motion? I move, seconded by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin), that this house do now adjourn.

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**An hon. Member:** You are not a dictator.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the right hon. gentleman speaking to the point of order?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order. This is a most unusual proceeding. A government, having been defeated, now endeavours to get a second chance. I am reminded of 1956—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I thought the right hon. gentleman was about to remind me of the rule that there could be no debate.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** No; I want the opportunity of rising. Let that be clear.

**Mr. Speaker:** The matter is very simple. A motion to adjourn the house is always in order and has been submitted by the Prime Minister. The only thing I can do is put the motion to the house, although if the house wants to give consent I certainly have no objection to hearing what the right hon. gentleman may want to say.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** With or without consent—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I rise to a question of order.

**An hon. Member:** What is the question?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What is the question? Is parliament to be throttled again as it was in 1956 by the same party? The particular point of order is this. In 1956 the government endeavoured to wipe out one day, Friday. What they are trying to do on this occasion is wipe out a decision of parliament, which is an unjust, unfair and unconstitutional proceeding.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, I ask for a ruling on my point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** I heard the point of order, and I submit to the hon. member that he is raising a constitutional question upon which I cannot rule. I cannot accept the point of order. I have to put the motion to the house.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** What is the motion?