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This citation is very important, and I will read it again in English.

[*English*]

—If, under this Standing Order, the notice applies to several proposed resolutions, the whole of the sittings allowed for discussion may be engaged in only a part of them and the remainder has to be voted on without the House having debated them at all. The right of free debate is thereby abolished in so far as those proposed resolutions are concerned.

It is obvious from that citation that Beauchesne's 1958 Fourth Edition at least envisaged the possibility of closure being applied in Committee of the Whole to parts of a Bill not yet debated.

The Hon. Minister of State for the Treasury Board made a strong point in underlining that the 1956 precedent which confirms the 1932 precedent carries the authority of sustained Chairman's decision, a Speaker's ruling, and a recorded decision by the House itself.

The Hon. Member for Peace River accurately pointed out that in all the recent discussions of procedural reforms, closure has remained untouched.

Therefore, in light of the 1958 Beauchesne's citation, the precedents of 1932 and 1956, and the lack of further direction by the House since 1956, I must rule that the Minister's Notice given yesterday is valid and that his proposed motion is in order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Chairman: It is now my duty to propose the question without further debate.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I respectfully appeal your ruling to the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and the Chairman of the Committee made the following report:

When the Order of the Day to resume consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill C-2, an Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States of America, was about to be called, the Hon. Minister of State for Treasury Board proposed to move that further consideration of Clauses 1 to 150, the preamble, the title and schedule, and any amendments proposed thereto of the Committee of the Whole stage of Bill C-2 shall be the first business of the Committee and shall not be further postponed.

A point of order was raised by the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands about the procedural acceptability of the notice and the form of the motion.

After hearing argument, I ruled that the notice was in the proper form and could be proceeded with.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Whereupon, the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands appealed to Mr. Speaker from the decision of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker: Under the circumstances, it would be appropriate for the Speaker to stand the House for a few minutes to consider carefully the reasons the Chairman has given. I shall do that, to the call of the Chair.

• (1950)

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, when you say "to the call of the Chair", will the bells ring for five minutes as they did on the previous occasion?

Mr. Speaker: I think that would be appropriate.

SITTING SUSPENDED

The sitting of the House was suspended at 7.52 p.m.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I have been following the proceedings carefully. I listened to the Chairman's ruling, and I have considered the arguments from both sides of the House. During the recess just concluded I read the Chairman's ruling, and I am satisfied that the two precedents mentioned, that of 1932 and that of 1956, are persuasive precedents. I rule that the Chairman has properly applied them to the issue before us. Therefore, I confirm the ruling of the Chair.

House in Committee of the Whole on Bill C-2, an Act to enact the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act—Mr. Crosbie—Mr. Danis in the chair.

The Chairman: The motion is the following one: Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mazankowski, moved:

That further consideration of Clauses 1 to 150, the preamble, the title and schedule, and any amendments proposed thereto at the Committee of the Whole stage of Bill C-2 shall be the first business of the committee and shall not be further postponed.

Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

• (2020)

Motion (Mr. Lewis) agreed to: Yeas, 147; Nays, 77.