

[Translation]

Mr. Gérald Laniel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I know that under our Standing Orders, no member can speak on an issue other than the one before the House, but I hope you will allow me to extend, on behalf of all members, our wishes for a speedy recovery to the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Ethier), the Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole who, as we know, has been hospitalized because of a fairly serious illness. We all hope to see him back in the House very soon.

[English]

It would be difficult for me to reply to all the remarks concerning the motion put by the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) who admitted that the operation of the agency was satisfactory. I suppose his main purpose in moving the motion was to show his concern about the enforcement of, or the qualifying requirements of, the decision by FIRA.

I listened attentively to most of his remarks, especially those in which he referred to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) who answers for FIRA in the House. I hesitate to get into a debate on remarks which seem to imply that the mere fact that we have a responsible, interested, hard-working, competent, concerned and efficient Minister of Industry and Commerce—and I see the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) laughing—

Mr. Knowles: So are you.

Mr. Laniel:—who tackles problems on a daily basis, might have the effect of delaying the decision-making process of FIRA. The member opposite should find out whether the agency has fulfilled its mandate, then he will understand the advantages of having such a good minister. He should have congratulated the minister for his efficiency. I understand the preoccupation of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain, but this is practically a square circle. It would not be easy for the agency to make a judgment on a takeover or an investment in Canada without, in the first place, supplying some guarantee to the enterprise concerned regarding confidential information.

We are members of Parliament. I do not think we have a responsibility that requires us to know all the details. If we are generally satisfied, as the hon. member for Vaudreuil indicated when he spoke, with the good work of FIRA, that satisfaction is endorsed by the statistics, the results of investments, the job creation, the access to the technology and the progression of these new industries in coming to Canada. The pattern is a good one. That is why I appreciate the good work of this agency.

● (1800)

May I call it six o'clock so that I may have an opportunity when this debate comes back again before the House, to go further into the workings of FIRA and answer the requests of hon. members.

S.O. 75c

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): That is agreed. The Chair will take special pleasure in conveying the hon. parliamentary secretary's compliments and good wishes to the deputy chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At 6.03 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME ALLOCATION FOR SECOND READING OF BILL C-59

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pinard:

That, in relation to Bill C-59, an act to provide supplementary borrowing authority, one additional sitting day shall be allotted to the further consideration of the second reading stage of the bill; and that at 15 minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on that day, any proceedings before the House shall be interrupted, if required, for the purpose of this order and, in turn, every question then necessary in order to dispose of the second reading stage of the bill shall be put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): When the debate on this motion was interrupted at five o'clock this afternoon, the hon. member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight) had the floor, and had some time remaining. He would be entitled upon his return to seek the floor. In the interim, I will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie).

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, it gives me a sense of mixed pleasure to have the opportunity tonight to speak in opposition to the government's move on the legislation having to do with the borrowing authority. I say mixed pleasure because, of course, it is not pleasant for us to have this experience in the first place, to witness the government trying to close off debate on a matter as important as the borrowing authority. However, I take some pleasure in being able to stand in my place and be part of the tradition which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) so aptly represents. I refer to the tradition of this party and its opposition to closure, its opposition to 75c going back to its very formation at the time when the Liberal government used closure to bring in this new form of closure. Therefore, it is with some pleasure that I stand here today along with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre to register opposition to