

Business of the House

information in the House on Monday and Tuesday and she continues to deny the letter. Since the Minister's own official has confirmed the letter, will she table in the House the new directives that will replace the infamous letter so that Canadians will be assured that individuals involved in such criminal activities will not be invited to seek fraudulent refugee status in Canada?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member seeks to confuse an issue about which there is no deceit or misrepresentation. The tone of the letter is at issue here. Officials have redrafted the letter in order to clarify the tone of the letter. There has been no substantive change, and in no way will criminals be dealt with preferentially.

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● (1500)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has been given notice of a desire on the part of the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) to raise a point of order. Is the Hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) rising on a point of order?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties, and it has been agreed that the business to be called at this time will be report stage of Bill C-106, an Act respecting the Young Offenders Act. I think there is agreement in that respect. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) has some amendments which he wishes to table. I think the House would agree, by unanimous consent, to the Hon. Member tabling those amendments at this time. They were not tabled when we dealt with the matter previously.

However, by the same token, I think there would be unanimous consent in respect of the motion put forward on behalf of the Government. Hon. Members of the House are inclined to accept that particular amendment as being appropriate. If there is any question in respect of same, or if Your Honour has any concern about the matter, I should like to indicate that I have consulted with members of the other Parties and that the House would be inclined to allow the matter to come forward and be put to a vote.

Also it was discussed that we would proceed with report stage and, following the disposition of report stage, that we would carry on with third reading of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has several dilemmas. The first one is that it has been very difficult to hear what the Hon. Minister has said because of the noise behind him. Could all Hon. Members who do not have any business in the House at this moment please leave.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): There will be nobody left!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could I be clear on what the Hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) is suggesting with regard to Bill C-106? Is the Chair being asked to accept the tabling of the amendments of the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) without notice?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I will go over it again. First, the order of business will be the consideration of Bill C-106 at report stage. Second, the Hon. Member for York South—Weston has distributed copies of proposed amendments, and he wishes to seek unanimous consent to table them at this time without appropriate notice having been given. As far as we are concerned, we are quite prepared to have the Hon. Member table those motions for consideration by the House. Third, there is a Government motion already before the House. I have consulted with members of the other Parties, and they are agreeable to having that matter put to a vote if there is any question in respect of the motion. Fourth, once we have completed report stage of the Bill, I think Your Honour will find disposition to proceed with third reading today.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. With regard to the tabling of amendments without appropriate notice, Your Honour will recall that two days or three days ago I raised the dilemma with which we are confronted, inasmuch as Bills are being reported back from committee and have to be dealt with during the course of the next five days or six days. Because of the necessity to proceed with legislation, the normal requirement for tabling, and therefore printing on the Notice Paper, is not always possible.

However, having said that, I suggest that we should not consider this to be a precedent for the following reason. I should like to suggest that in future if Hon. Members want to bring forward amendments for consideration which have not gone through the proper channels, at the very least the amendments ought to be given to each of the Parties and to the Chair in advance of debate commencing, so that we do not have amendments brought forward of which we have absolutely no knowledge and which may in fact be out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Before recognizing the Hon. Member for York South—Weston, I have no problem if the House seeks to waive the notice provision. However, in advance of seeing a motion, the Chair cannot determine whether it is in fact in order, whether or not notice is waived. The Chair has to make that caveat.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, the difficulty is that the Government wishes Bill C-106 to be passed by Parliament before it adjourns for the summer recess. We reached an agreement at committee that the Liberal Party would move its amendments at report stage in the House. The committee concluded clause by clause consideration of the Bill in question last Tuesday. There was some difficulty in getting the amendments together. We were not told until today that the Government intended to bring forward Bill C-106.