

Extension of Hours

under Government Notices of Motions in the name of the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan). Item 6, Bill C-63, an Act to establish the Canadian Aviation Safety Board and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof. Item 7, Bill C-152, an Act respecting the organization of the Government of Canada—heaven only knows, it needs organization—and matters related or incidental thereto. And Item No. 8, Bill C-95, an Act to provide for government operated pool systems on combinations of athletic contests and events and to amend the Criminal Code and the Income Tax Act.

● (1530)

Mr. Pinard: There is no guarantee that you will pass them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. The Chair acknowledges receipt of the proposed amendment. I would suggest that the Chair take it under consideration to determine whether or not it is in order, simply because this is the first application of an amendment under the new provisional rules. However, debate should continue as if the motion were in order until a ruling is handed down.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that this is the first time this amendment has been proposed under the new Standing Orders. I would hope that the Chair would look at it in the spirit of the amendment. Also, if there are any technical changes which are required because of the wording of the Government House Leader's motion, if the Table could suggest those, I believe that would be satisfactory to us.

I am sure that the Chair will deal with the amendment in the spirit with which it is brought forward, and that is to deal with the Government's legislation—absolutely to deal with the Government's legislation—and to see if we do not proceed to pass those pieces of legislation. The Government knows where we stand on the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

Mr. Pinard: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I just realized that my hon. colleague wants to go on with his speech. I apologize for interrupting him, but since the Chair wants to look at the admissibility of the amendment, I would like an opportunity to argue that it is not admissible. If the Chair would like to hear me after the Hon. Member has finished his speech, fine. If the Chair would like to hear me now, I am willing to argue now.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Chair recognizes that the Hon. President of the Privy Council does wish to address himself to this matter. I believe the most satisfactory way to proceed is to allow the Hon. Member for Simcoe North to complete his remarks. The Chair will then hear any and all Hon. Members who may wish to comment on whether or not the motion is admissible, if that is agreeable.

Mr. Benjamin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, why do the Hon. Members not all leave the room and have a meeting?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand why the Government House Leader wants to debate the admissibility of an amendment which would further the operation of Government business. I cannot understand why he would want to

debate it because we are trying to facilitate Government business, and that order of legislation, as I suggested earlier, without revealing any confidences, I believe is appropriate. I can assure the Government House Leader that we want to see that legislation go forward and we are doing what we are doing in an effort to assist the Government House Leader. That last comment might be subject to some discussion in my caucus.

I would like to point out that we come here to this House realizing that we are coming toward the end of the session. We appreciate that the work of an Hon. Member of Parliament is not only accomplished in this House but back in his or her riding. We know that valuable input is received by Members of Parliament back in their ridings. We realize that is a part of the job. We in this Party also realize that the job takes place in this House and in the ridings. It may be a little difficult for Hon. Members on the Government side to go back to their ridings, I can appreciate that. It may be that they will want to sit here through July and August rather than go back to their ridings, and I can appreciate that. It is probably pretty hot back in some of their ridings. However, we are prepared to come here and deal with Government business.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we feel that the extended hours, if we are to agree to them, must be handled in a way which treats all of the Government's business seriously and which looks after all of the concerns which those pieces of legislation address. For that reason I would hope that the Government would support our amendment, which is moved in order to facilitate Government business.

I appreciate the opportunity I have had to debate this effort of the Government to extend the hours. However, I put that caveat on it. We feel that the Government must come forward with clean hands on this motion to extend hours. By "coming forward with clean hands", I mean that we must have it treat its legislation in an orderly fashion and deal with the very important items of business which are presently before the House.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me well, section 2002 of the Civil Code provides that good faith must always be presumed and that it is up to the person who alleges bad faith to prove it. That is exactly what the Civil Code says, and I have no intention—I presume that the Hon. Member is acting in good faith, but—

[*English*]

The Hon. Member knows we had a meeting yesterday to discuss the extended hours. He knows that he went to his caucus this morning. He knows that we had a meeting today before Question Period to discuss the extended hours. Why has the Hon. Member waited until he delivers his speech now, without having the courtesy of giving me a copy of his amendment, while I have had the courtesy of giving him a copy of the main motion? Why did he not raise this in our meetings? Why play games?