

Business of the House

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the minister is going beyond the question of privilege. Orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES ON BUSINESS SUPPLY MOTION

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the debate which is about to commence there have been discussions with regard to the length of time for speeches in order that the House may have the benefit of hearing from as many members as possible. It has been suggested that we might vary the rules so that the first speaker from each party would have 20 minutes and each speaker thereafter would be limited to 15 minutes. This suggestion has been made. There is some willingness to accept it but I do not know if it is complete.

Mr. Downey: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might allow the hon. member for Battle River, who has a question of privilege, to indicate what it is, and then return to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, in Saturday's *Calgary Herald* it was reported that the provincial Minister of Agriculture for Alberta stated that he had not received an invitation to appear before the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture which has been studying the marketing board legislation. Could the Minister of Agriculture assure the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is, of course, not a question of privilege. The hon. member knows that if the rule is adhered to strictly, notice has to be given. If the hon. member wants to ask a question, this might be done tomorrow. We will now return to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, consultations were held with respect to the length of speeches during the debate today and certainly agreed to that aspect concerning the length of speeches after the first speaker for each party has spoken. However, rather than reduce the length of the initial speeches from 40 minutes to 20 minutes we would prefer that it be reduced to 30 minutes. We would agree that the first speaker for each party should have 30 minutes and that thereafter speeches be limited to 15 minutes.

Mr. Baldwin: As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I think the rule is 30 rather than 40 minutes for the two lead-off speakers, so we are extending the time for the lead-off speakers for the other two parties. We agree to the first speaker for each party having 30 minutes and thereafter 15 minutes for the succeeding speakers.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, what has been arrived at is what we arrived at some time ago.

[Mr. Benson.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe there is agreement in the House to the suggestion made by hon. members. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

• (3:00 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED LACK OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River) moved:

That this House condemns the government's lack of leadership which has humiliated the disadvantaged, dislocated the finances of provinces and municipalities, and caused injury and decline to our rural communities which are already seriously damaged by the government's failure to provide adequate agricultural policies.

He said: Mr. Speaker, by consent the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) is speaking first in my place.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to note, according to reports that came out of Saskatoon over the weekend, that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was concerned about the effect of criticisms of his government on the confidence of the people in that government. I would say he has reason to be concerned. I could not help but smile last night—it really is not the right way to express it because anything so serious as this must be of grave concern to every one of us—at reports of the Prime Minister's efforts to rationalize the unemployment situation that exists at the present time. If there is one phrase that has confused the Canadian public it is, "seasonally adjusted." It is very easy to rationalize statistics in terms of such vague generalities but the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that we are told by the Bureau of Statistics that at the present time in Canada there are 668,000 people unemployed.

An hon. Member: Shame.

Mr. Thompson: In fact, the other day the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Lang) noted that there were approximately 640,000 Canadians registered with the manpower offices across the country as seeking employment. Some of the labour leaders in the country say that the actual statistics as far as unemployed people are concerned show the figure more accurately to be over 800,000. These figures indicate a tragic situation for Canada, one of the wealthiest countries in the world. With all the ability and knowhow that we have, it is incredible that a situation such as this should exist. In my opinion, it exists because of the government's restrictive economic and fiscal policies and because of its failure to alleviate the plight of the unemployed. It also