

Senator Prud'homme: I should like to join with the view expressed by the chairman. Last night, my friend Senator De Bané corrected me with regard to the bill on pensions. However, having read the bill this morning I still find some very disturbing items in it concerning, for instance, unmarried members, widows and divorce in favour of new common law relationships; things which should interest all members.

I cannot understand how the House of Commons could have passed such an important bill so rapidly. This is unbelievable. I am pleased and honoured to be in the Senate where we will not proceed as the House of Commons does on very important matters.

I hope there will be someone in authority at the committee to answer my very precise questions on Bill C-85. It is in the interest of every member of Parliament to pay attention to this bill. Members of the House of Commons should have paid more attention to the details of this legislation because if it proceeds as is, some people may discover some surprises too late.

• (1450)

Hon. Eric Arthur Berntson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a small technical point for clarification. As I understand it, the House of Commons deals only with government legislation and, for example, the subject-matter of Bill S-10 would not be impacted by this house order.

Likewise, I think we have already dealt with Bill S-7, so it would not count. We are talking about government legislation.

Senator Graham: That is correct.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Honourable senators, to pursue the point made by Senator Prud'homme, I would like to be quite clear about the agreement that will be put to a vote in a few moments, and I am referring to the schedule of bills before this house. I think my opinion is shared by a number of Canadians and certainly by a number of senators in this house.

Thanks to poor management on the part of the Government House Leader in the other place, this year again we have to make decisions and rush through pieces of legislation of great importance to Canadians.

Before I approve this agreement, I want to make sure we all understand the situation. My understanding is that committees will present their reports to this house later than July 11 at 8:00 p.m., except in the case of two bills C-22 and C-68.

I want to make it clear to the Leader of the Government in the Senate or her deputy that just because the committees present their reports on July 11, she should not assume that we will rush these bills through in the following three hours. Quite the contrary. We may take a week or two or three weeks, if necessary, to consider the bill on pensions, Bill C-104 concerning forensic DNA analyses, and Bill C-91, which is now before us and concerns the future of the Federal Business Development Bank.

Senator Graham, perhaps you could tell us whether you have the same understanding as I do regarding this agreement.

[English]

Senator Graham: Honourable senators, I have never taken anything for granted. I presume the committee members will do their work very assiduously.

If the members take advantage of the time available, they will be able to complete their work by July 11. That is the understanding between both sides of the house. If there are serious concerns, I am sure that they will be brought to our attention on July 11.

I want to report a bit of progress with respect to witnesses because I understand that Mr. Massé is available for Bills C-65 and C-85. He will appear at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning before Senator Murray's committee. I also understand that Minister Eggleton or his parliamentary secretary, Mr. Duhamel, will possibly be able to appear before the committee at noon. That is the latest information, but stay tuned.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 58(1)(f), it was moved by the Honourable Senator Graham, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hébert:

That all Standing Committees to which legislation has been referred, with the exception of Bills C-22 and C-68, be instructed to report such legislation back to the Senate no later than 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 1995.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.