

Question of Privilege

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimity.

Mr. Turner: On a point of order, may I suggest to Your Honour that since you have taken under reservation three or four separate motions, and since there is nothing properly before the house at this particular moment, we revert to the ordinary business and that you make such a ruling.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, when I raised this question of privilege this afternoon I thought it was a matter which could be resolved very early and in a straightforward manner. Since that time the whole thing has been completely confused by a large number of questions of order and by procedural matters of various kinds.

I suggest that the only way in which the situation we are in could be resolved at the present time is by the leader of the government, the Prime Minister of Canada, standing up and saying what action he is prepared to take in order to bring this situation to a conclusion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I presume, Mr. Speaker, we are now back on the regular business of the house, second reading of the bill moved by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp)?

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, what I am concerned about is just what business are we on? If we are on the Bank Act I would like the Chair to indicate that.

Mr. Speaker: That was the business called at seven o'clock when the question of privilege was raised by the hon. member for Yukon. That is the business before the house, and if we agree that these several questions of privilege might be held in abeyance and reserved, we would return to that particular order of business, namely, the Bank Act.

Mr. Starr: Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, which is that this matter was brought before the house as a very serious matter to be considered by parliament and by the government. The Prime Minister has not seen fit to resolve this situation. He is letting the aspersions that have been made lie where they are, without any action on his part at all.

A motion was moved earlier by members of the N.D.P. that the house adjourn. It was

[Mr. Speaker.]

defeated. Now, because this matter has not been resolved I see no point in continuing for the balance of the half hour that remains before ten o'clock. I suggest that for the sake of the orderly business of the house we call it ten o'clock in order to give Your Honour an opportunity to resolve the motions which you have under reserve, and an opportunity for the government to make some definite decision.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member realizes there was a division in the house just a short while ago on a motion to adjourn the house and the majority of the house decided that we should not adjourn. It certainly is not for the Chair to go against that decision of the house. If there is unanimous agreement by hon. members, we could adjourn.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not. This has already been considered. There is no unanimous agreement, and so we have before us at this moment a particular item of business, the Bank Act.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

You have ruled that the motion for the adjournment of the house put forward by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey) was out of order because we had not gone on to another matter.

Now, if I am not mistaken, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre put his motion for the house to adjourn at six o'clock while we were discussing Bill No. S-10, introduced at the beginning of the private members' hour, that is at six o'clock.

Since then, the private members' hour has expired and at seven we returned to the orders of the day, that is to the motion for second reading of Bill No. C-3, an Act to amend the Bank Act.

A moment ago I asked that we return to the orders of the day and you told me that we already were on the orders of the day, therefore on Bill No. C-3. Since the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre put his motion while the motion for second reading of Bill No. S-10 was before us and since the other motion concerning Bill No. C-3 was introduced, I should like to draw to your attention standing order 25, which says:

A motion to adjourn (except when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance) shall always be in order, but