

CHILD CARE—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BILL

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from residents of southern Ontario, specifically from the Cities of Stratford, Toronto and Ottawa.

The petitioners protest and state that families throughout Canada need high quality, available and affordable child care services. It has been repeatedly recommended, they say, that to make these services available to families the Government of Canada must introduce legislation containing national objectives and appropriate mechanisms for the development of a comprehensive non-profit child care system accessible to all families throughout Canada.

The Bill proposed by the Government, they note, does not contain either national objectives or necessary funding arrangements. It will not ensure that families have access to high quality child care. Consequently, it is not in the best interests of young children, women or families in Canada.

Therefore they call upon Parliament to withdraw the child care Act forthwith.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

DISPOSITION OF BILL C-147

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Immediately before Your Honour puts the motion I wonder if I might make an inquiry of the House. There was an understanding among the Parties that this Bill would go to Committee of the Whole House and be dealt with in all stages this morning. I wonder if I can inquire as to whether or not it is possible to get unanimous consent to have the motion read that the Bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I do not really know where the Minister of State gets the impression that there have been some understandings regarding moving this legislation into Committee of the Whole. I would not want to rule that out as

Human Rights

a possibility. However, I think that it would be appropriate that further discussions take place now.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that we should proceed as per today's Order Paper. If there are any changes later in the day or later this morning we can interrupt those proceedings and perhaps make some changes. However, at the moment I think we should proceed as per today's Order Paper.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the Official Opposition was consulted, and it is true the critic for the Bill gave his consent to proceeding with consideration in Committee of the Whole immediately after second reading. However, I have no idea how many speakers there will be on all sides of the House, so I really cannot say whether we will finish the proceedings on the Bill this morning, and I cannot agree with the Minister's suggestion that the House be asked to deal with all stages of the Bill before 1 p.m. I would ask him to be patient with us, and with the Bill, and I think that by the end of the day he will be satisfied.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, under those circumstances, I suggest that Your Honour should proceed to read the motion in its original form.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps there could be consultations among the parties in order to reach agreement on how the Bill is to be dealt with, possibly later on?

● (1120)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Doug Lewis (for Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved that Bill C-147, an Act to establish the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker: On debate the Hon. Member for Scarborough West (Mr. Stackhouse) has the floor.

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, it is a singular honour to present this Bill before the House, because it is a distinctive and important way for this Parliament and this country to share in the world-wide recognition of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That achievement, so many years ago, was an historic turning point in the recognition that