

Adjournment Motion

measure which can be disposed of rather expeditiously, Bill C-237. It is not anticipated that the matter will take the full hour.

I understand that there are also few speakers remaining on the subject we were dealing with this afternoon, the Historic Sites and Monuments Act. If it is anticipated that that debate could be concluded in a short time, perhaps we could continue with it without interruption before dealing with private members' business which, as I say, it is anticipated will not take very long either.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, this is a novel point raised by the parliamentary secretary. I have not had an opportunity to consult with my colleagues as I always do with respect to these weighty issues. I was under the impression that the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin) would not proceed with his bill; then I learned that he intended to proceed and unfortunately I dismissed from the chamber members of my party who had been ready to participate in the debate on this bill.

● (1700)

Mr. Benjamin: Dismissed?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Well, I told them they were free to go, but asked them to return at eight o'clock so that we could participate again in deliberations on orders of the day. Perhaps I could consult with the parliamentary secretary after I have had a chance to talk to some of my colleagues. The fact is that we look forward to hearing the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre, and several members of my party are interested in participating in private members' hour. Perhaps I could confer with the parliamentary secretary after I have had a chance to determine what the situation is on my side of the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the general state of flux may I suggest that we call the private member's public bill in the name of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin). If it is disposed of quickly and there is time, perhaps we could decide whether, in the time remaining before six o'clock, we should continue with debate on Bill C-13. I think there would be a general desire not to begin debating another bill between now and six o'clock. Perhaps we should first dispose of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guilbault: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), except that I would like to hold a discussion now rather than after the debate on the bill of the member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin) so that we may come back to the orders of the day, since I am convinced that the said bill will take very little time. On the other hand, I would hesitate to carry on a debate on the orders of the day since we do not know exactly how long it will last and government members do not want the bill of the member for Regina-Lake Centre to be rejected for lack of time to discuss it, because it has true merit.

[Mr. Goodale.]

[*English*]

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Goodale) has also risen on a point of order. I shall recognize him and then recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie).

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It seems to me that the arrangement described by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State (Mr. Guilbault) and mentioned by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is sensible. I suggest that we consider item No. 37 under private members' public bills, Bill C-237 standing in the name of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin), in the hope that the bill will be dealt with expeditiously. We can hold open the option of continuing debate on Bill C-13 once we have concluded consideration of the hon. member's bill.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to correct what the parliamentary secretary just said. He said, I think, that the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) had been speaking on behalf of the New Democratic Party. I suggest that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) spoke on behalf of the New Democratic Party, not the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I was about to rise on the same point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is it agreed that we consider Bill C-237 standing in the name of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin)?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[*English*]

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING TIME OF RESIDENCE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre) moved that Bill C-237, to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Guilbault: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I suggest that the second reading motion as put should be amended to provide for the bill to be referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, the committee dealing with the Citizenship Act.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.