

the same bill and I shall be seeking a ruling from Your Honour in regard to severing portions of the bill. It may not be appropriate to commence the argument today, but if Your Honour wishes, I would be happy to do so. I just want to give Your Honour some warning that we intend to argue that the bill is not in appropriate form as introduced for first reading.

Before commencing second reading debate of the bill we wish to present an argument which favours dividing portions of the bill into separate pieces of legislation which will be dealt with by the House. I am particularly concerned about the firearms and wiretapping sections. I am in Your Honour's hands. If you feel it appropriate that we commence the argument today, we will; or we will be happy to do so when the bill is called.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty about waiting until the bill is called although—had the bill been called today, naturally the matter would have had to be raised today—is that the Chair really does not have much time after the presentation of such a point of order. Or, to put it another way, if the Chair were to take the time necessary properly to study arguments raised on such a point of order on the day that the bill is presented to the House for discussion, it would certainly cause difficulties in scheduling. On the other hand, if it was not the government's intention to proceed with this matter today, perhaps it is not prepared to meet and to answer arguments in respect of such a point of order. If it is, in fact, the case that the government is prepared to meet those arguments today, or at some time before the matter is called, I certainly would prefer to hear those arguments at some time prior to the calling of the bill, in order to give the Chair some time to decide without causing the House undue inconvenience in the scheduling of business.

● (1510)

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your remarks. I am taken a little by surprise that the government is not ready to argue that point today. We could, of course, hear from the hon. member, but we would not be ready to respond.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, because of the business of the house that could be called, it is clear we are not going to be dealing with this matter now, in any event. I quite understand that your honour would want to deal with it in advance of calling the bill, which is contemplated to be called on Wednesday, tomorrow being an allotted day. I would not want the argument to be called on our allotted day. If it would be agreeable to my colleagues and the minister, it might be appropriate if the Chair called the matter at eight o'clock tonight and we had the argument this evening. Then we could deal with it one way or another well in advance of the calling of the bill.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, the House leader of the official opposition makes a suggestion with which I have no disagreement. I would be happy to commence argument on the matter at eight o'clock, if that meets the needs of the Minister of Justice.

Unemployment Insurance Entitlements

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, that creates some problem for me in that I expect to be on an aeroplane at eight o'clock tonight.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): We can all argue on the aeroplane.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Leave it up in the air.

Mr. Basford: Possibly someone could state my position for me, and it could be proceeded with at eight o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: I will not call the point now. The hon. member for New Westminster has given notice of his intention to raise the point. Perhaps it should be agreed that the matter will stand over for consideration to see whether some convenient time could be worked out for calling it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a separate point of order, and I do so before we proceed with the items that have been indicated for today. I refer to Bill C-52, a bill having to do with correcting a situation with respect to unemployment insurance benefits for certain senior citizens. There has been a clear understanding, if the bill was in the terms indicated to us, that we would be prepared to put it through all stages without debate.

The bill was given first reading on Friday. It is now on the order paper for second reading. I would like to suggest that either now, or if you want to leave it until five o'clock or eight o'clock, we carry out our previous agreement of giving second reading to that bill, giving it committee of the whole stage procedure, and third reading. We stand by our undertaking that this bill can be passed through all these stages without debate.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, that is perfectly acceptable to us, if the government would like to call it now as the first order of government business to be proceeded with and dealt with immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ENTITLEMENTS ADJUSTMENT ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFIT

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration) moved that Bill C-52, to provide for the consideration of certain unemployment insurance entitlements, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): No; that it be referred to committee of the whole.