

*Business of the House*

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Speaking to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, there is no right of reply on the part of the minister, irrespective of what comments happen to be made by the leaders of the various parties. This has not been the practice in the past. If this practice is permitted, then we should be permitted a full debate. Perhaps the government will provide an opportunity to have a full debate on this subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened, naturally, with a great deal of interest and curiosity to the remarks of the different members, including the minister and the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps a little too much leeway was given with regard to the comments on the statement made by the minister. The result now is that we are entering upon a debate which should not be done at this time when we are considering motions. May I suggest that perhaps the minister could set the example and that we could proceed to other matters, and that the discussion of these details on motions is not a time for extended or controversial statements.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I have no desire to interfere or to object in any way to the view you now take, Mr. Speaker, but as this is an important matter I thought it was important for the house to be informed of the government's views with regard to suggestions made. But, since this is the view you take, I simply suggest with great respect that when you are looking at matters of procedure you might look at *Hansard* during the past four or five years and Your Honour will see many instances in which the present Leader of the Opposition made all sorts of responses to opposition reactions to statements made by his incompetent government.

**Mr. Churchill:** You are an expert on incompetence right now.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

## EXTENDED SITTING HOURS—CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLY ON FRIDAY

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might report to the house on a conference I had with hon. gentlemen opposite about certain suggestions for facilitating the business of the house with a view to getting an adjournment for part of the summer. I think there is agreement—and I will be quite happy to be interrupted and corrected at any stage if I misstate it—among all parties that we are prepared for the rest of this week, and for next week, to forgo the private members'

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

hour and make it available for government business on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are also ready to sit at seven o'clock instead of eight o'clock in the evening on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and since there is agreement about this with respect to today and the rest of this week and next week—and I do not go beyond that—I wonder if this might be recorded as an order of the house. When it has been recorded I would just like to say a word about Fridays, but not with a view to having anything recorded.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does this suggestion meet with the pleasure of the house?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** There was one additional matter, Mr. Speaker, unless I missed it at the last minute, and that is that in the hour on Thursday which remains for private members' business, precedence be given to private bills. Was not that agreed?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is quite agreeable to the government if it is agreeable to the house. I think it would happen anyway because there have been no notices of motions transferred, but if that could be understood to be included in the provision originally made I should be happy.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question for clarification. When is this agreement to begin, and will the lost private members' hours be picked up in the fall?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The private members' hours are just being suspended; therefore they will not interfere with the operation of the rule respecting Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I am afraid the Fridays, under the rule, will be irretrievably lost because that goes on for the whole session, and we cannot re-invent the Fridays, if I may put it that way.

**Mr. Bell:** When would it begin?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** This is only to the end of next week, starting today. Now if I may say a word about Fridays for the information of hon. members, it was understood that on Friday next the government would, as was done last Friday, call one of the departments for the consideration of estimates; and while no commitment was made about the matter there was an understanding that an earnest effort would be made on all sides of the house to proceed as we did last Friday and get through one department. No one is committed to that; I want to emphasize that, but there was an undertaking that there would