Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and Bill withdrawn.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We appreciate the fact that over the weekend the Government has not had time to give us notice of anything it wanted to discuss on Orders of the Day. Therefore, it is impossible for us to arrange for debate. As Party Whip in charge of organizing my caucus, I find it difficult to arrange our duties in the House in an orderly and proper manner.

I would like to ask unanimous consent of the House that the motion dealing with the third report of the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology be considered as the order of the day until one o'clock, without prejudicing the right of the Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) in putting a motion under Standing Order 29, notice of which I believe has been delivered in due course. He would like to put that motion to you at this time. If there is unanimous consent, we could proceed that way and continue with the order of the day, which would be the third report of the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology.

Mr. Lewis Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to consider my colleague's suggestion. I appreciate that a motion pursuant to Standing Order 29 comes after motions in the order of Routine Proceedings on the Order Paper.

There have been discussions among the Parties as to what would be the best way to conduct business this morning, in view of the fact that it is a Monday and it is difficult to schedule Members' time as well as airline flights.

I think it has been generally agreed that it would be useful to debate my colleague's motion on the third report of the Standing Committee on Research, Since and Technology after you have had an opportunity to consider the request of the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) for an emergency debate.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair should make it clear to Hon. Members what has been proposed by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) and has been agreed to by the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) on behalf of the Government. The usual procedure would require that an application for an emergency debate not take place until the end of Routine Proceedings. Of course, if we have debate on the Hon. Member's motion now we will not get to that today.

The suggestion has been made and agreed to by the Government—but not by the NDP as of yet—that the Chair consider the application for an emergency debate by the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) at this time. Of course, this could only be done with consent of the House. I would ask for some guidance from the New Democratic Party as to its position.

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, we would concur with that in the interests of the business going forward.

Mr. Speaker: I thank Hon. Members for their courtesy.

* * *

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 29

ATLANTIC CANADIAN SHELLFISH—PRESENCE OF TOXIN

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) rises on a matter which is of very serious concern not only to other Members, but especially to the Hon. Member. I recognize the Hon. Member for Egmont on that application. I would, as I did on Friday, remind Hon. Members, because I am sure others in the House will remind me to remind them, that the application should be a clear and concise statement, closely following the notice I received from the Hon. Member, and ought not to be the argument that might ensue later if the Chair were disposed to grant the emergency debate.

• (1120)

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the concurrence of the House to move this motion today under Standing Order 29. It is a very important subject, certainly to the people of Atlantic Canada. Therefore, pursuant to Standing Order 29, I ask leave to propose a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the bumbling and incompetence of the Government that has led to misinformation and confusion with regard to the safety consumption of Atlantic Canadian shellfish with disastrous consequences for the Atlantic Canadian fishery.

I present this motion today because on Friday, in a press release issued under the name of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) consumers were warned about a toxin in shellfish. In paragraph two of the release it stipulated that all mussels, oysters, clams and other shellfish, cultivated or wild, were included in this alert. This release was carried across the country and, indeed, throughout the world. It has done untold damage to our Atlantic shellfish industry, especially the lobster industry.

The release was not clear. It should have specifically spelled out—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I want to assure the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson) and other Members from Atlantic Canada and other places, and their constituents, that the Chair is extremely aware of the matters about which the Hon. Member for Egmont speaks. However, again the Chair is constrained by the rules. I would ask the Hon. Member for