

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, June 6, 1988

The House met at 11 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, on today's Order Paper there is a motion for allocation of time on second reading of Bill C-129 to be offered by the Minister of State for the Treasury Board and Deputy Government House Leader.

Subject to your guidance as to when this point should be argued, Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a point of order that this motion is improperly before the house at this time, by reason of the fact that the consultation required by the relevant Standing Order, at least with the Official Opposition, did not take place.

I would be prepared to make further comment in that regard, but I would like your guidance as to whether you would like me to argue this point now, or whether I should argue the point when the motion is called, as I understand it will be at an appropriate point during Routine Proceedings.

If you say that I should argue this point when the motion is called, Mr. Speaker, then obviously I would say that it would be without prejudice to the point that I intend to make.

I also want to state that it is my intention to raise as a point of order and as a point of privilege the acceptability of the notice of motion the Government placed on the Order Paper to suspend our Standing Orders with respect to the days and hours of sitting in order to facilitate the Government's legislative program which, through its own mismanagement and incompetence, has so far proven unable to fit in within the rules of this House as adopted by this House pursuant to the parliamentary reform for which the Government takes such credit every time it can.

I raise this now, Mr. Speaker, because when I raised a point of order about the acceptability of another motion by the Government to suspend the rules of the House in order to facilitate its approach to bringing the abortion issue before the

House, you allowed Members to make comments, but you stated that, as far as you were concerned, this matter had to be dealt with if and when the motion was called formally.

Therefore, I wish to say that I am certainly prepared to argue the acceptability of the Government's notice of motion on today's Order Paper to suspend the rules not only with respect to one matter, but to throw them out of the window entirely for a purpose which I think is unacceptable to the country. If it is your wish, Mr. Speaker, and I suspect that may be the case from what you said the last time the Government put down a motion of this sort with respect only to the question of abortion, I would not be surprised if you informed me and the other Members of the House that the point should be argued in detail if and when the motion was called. I wished to ensure that I was not in some way waiving my rights and those of other Members of the House to argue the acceptability of the motion, by not raising the matter at the first opportunity this morning.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the Hon. Member for Windsor West for his intervention. Dealing with the two points he has raised, first with respect to Bill C-129, I certainly understand his position. It would be better if that were left until after we have gone through Routine Proceedings, and I will hear the Hon. Member then, depending on what the Government does.

With respect to the point of privilege or the alleged point of privilege the Hon. Member has raised with respect to the notice regarding summer sittings, the Hon. Member has certainly read the Chair's mind correctly, and that should be postponed until we see whether or not that is going to be proceeded with.

With respect to the so-called abortion motion, it is true that I felt that, under the circumstances given the particular matter, it was probably in the interests of this place to allow some preliminary comment at that time, which I did. I would prefer, for the better order of things with respect to the second matter the Hon. Member for Windsor West has raised, to hold that off until such time as we see if, in fact, it is actually going to be brought forward. But I want to assure the Hon. Member that I have notice of his concerns and I will make sure he is not in any way prejudiced by not insisting on proceeding at this time.