

Supply—Justice

the rich. The law is for the poor and the rich, and he is perfectly right.

Mr. Chairman, I am out of order but I noticed that the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) spoke for 50 minutes.

The hon. member for Bow River is a lawyer and an extremely brilliant expert in criminal law for whom I have the greatest respect. He is a parliamentarian and a debater I would prefer to have on my side rather than against me. He is very effective in the way he conducts a debate. Therefore, I would not like my remarks to be taken as a breach of good manners; I am simply raising a matter of principle.

The standing orders stipulate that hon. members may speak for 30 minutes, but in the two years I have been here, no one has paid much attention to them I noticed. I would not object if three, four or five additional minutes were granted to those who have not finished stating their argument, although I think it could be done in one or two minutes, because anyone appearing on radio or television, where time is restricted, at a few seconds notice is cut down to half a minute without any consideration, because time must be limited.

I feel that the attitude of some members is illogical. For example, when I hear members of the opposition speak about the guillotine, I must say that I have always understood that standing orders, even if some provisions are temporary, had been passed with the approval of the leaders of all parties. Therefore, I cannot see how one can rightly say such a thing, unless one wants to stir up the electorate, or kid around, or give the public at large the wrong impression, which to my mind is akin to false pretences. I feel it would be dishonest to say that the guillotine will come down this evening. If the rule is not good, then the leaders of all the parties should meet and say: We are changing the rule, and that will be the end of that.

The same goes for limiting the speeches, Mr. Chairman. I too am opposed to that. The hon. member benefited from the fact that I was out of the house for a few minutes when he asked for the unanimous consent.

I appeal to all the members of the house and say this: Do standing orders exist? If they exist, why are they not adhered to? If the rules are no good, why are they not improved? But if we ourselves disobey the rules, we do not, as parliamentarians, set a very edifying example.

[Mr. Mongrain.]

Mr. Chairman, I understand that—again, I should like it to be understood that I do not, in my remarks, necessarily refer to the hon. member for Bow River because I say that he is one of the parliamentarians whom I listen to with most pleasure; I could listen to him for hours, although I am a little blasé as to—

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I was trying to see whether his remarks were in order; I do not think they are. Moreover, it is six o'clock and I think it would be wise not to make comments which might be found unpleasant.

Mr. Mongrain: In any event, Mr. Chairman, I had finished.

[English]

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order. It being six o'clock, it is my duty to leave the chair in order that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business, pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely private bill, notices of motions papers, and public bills.

PRIVATE BILLS

PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West) moved the second reading of Bill No. S-11, respecting Principal Life Insurance Company of Canada.

• (6:00 p.m.)

He said: Mr. Speaker, the sole purpose of Bill S-11 is to ensure that chapter 21 of the statutes of 1965 will be deemed not to have expired or to have ceased to be in force after the thirtieth day of June, 1967, and to extend the expiry date to the thirtieth day of June 1969.

Hon. members may remember that this company was incorporated by a private bill that was passed in June of 1965 and, according to the provisions of the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, the certificate to commence business must be issued by the superintendent of insurance within two years of the effective date of the charter; otherwise the charter expires and the company must be wound up. However, in December, 1966, a petition was filed, after consultation