

Private Members' Business

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now proceed to the consideration of Bill C-208, An Act respecting the International Airport at Ottawa.

Yesterday, the House embarked upon its first hour of Private Members' Business since the new provisional Standing Orders came into effect. At that time, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) raised a point of order regarding the practice which should be followed in the event of an Hon. Member being unable to be present to move his motion on the day fixed according to the order of precedence.

I have listened with care to the comments of Hon. Members, both yesterday and today, and I am aware that there will be difficulties such as this to be resolved during the experimental period from now until the end of December.

Pursuant to Standing Order 39(1) the Speaker has arranged for notice of the 20 items of Private Members' Business, as established in the order of precedence, to be published in the Notice Paper. It is noted at the time that Private Members' Hour may be suspended by the application of other Standing Orders. Therefore, as the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) correctly pointed out, when such debates as that on the Speech from the Throne, an emergency debate, allotted days or Budget debates take place, the schedule for Private Members' Business will be adjusted so that no Member loses his place in the order of precedence.

In the case before us, notice has been given of the motion for second reading and reference to a legislative committee of Bill C-208, An Act respecting the International Airport at Ottawa. The Hon. Member for Hull—Aylmer (Mr. Isabelle), in whose name this motion stands, is unable to be present.

I am grateful for the interventions by Hon. Members and intend to reserve my decision. Meanwhile, since the Table Officers require instructions by which to prepare the *Order Paper and Notices*, I am prepared in the interim to rule as follows without prejudice to any other ruling that might be made later: First, since the Standing Orders are not clear as to the disposition of private Members' items not taken up, I am ordering that this item of business in the name of the Member for Hull-Aylmer drop to the bottom of the order of precedence.

Second, Standing Order 39(2) provides for continuing with or reverting to the business before the House prior to Private Members' Hour: "In the event of it not being possible to provide the 24 hours' notice . . .". Since notice had been published, it is the view of the Chair that Standing Order 39(2) does not apply in this case.

Third, as there is no business before the House at this moment, it is the view of the Chair that the House should adjourn.

Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until Monday next at 11.00 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 4.18 p.m.