

Mr. POULIOT: Speaking to the point of order, I gladly support the hon. member for Outremont (Mr. Vien) although I do not agree with him with regard to the bill. If we look at the orders of the day for to-day, we see that private and public bills have precedence for the first hour. Therefore private bills are considered ahead of public bills. We first considered private bills which were unopposed; then we considered public bills that were unopposed. Now we are coming back to private bills which are opposed, and public bills which are opposed can only come afterward, according to the order paper which I hold in my hand. Therefore if the bill were as good as the remarks of the hon. member for Outremont has made on the point of order, I would support it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I ask a ruling on the point of order. My point of order is—

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): As my hon. friend has already spoken twice on the point of order, perhaps he will let me say what I think about it. This motion was made for the purpose of getting rid of the bills which are unopposed. They are called in the order of their place on the order paper. Those that are opposed stand and all the other bills are called; and then when the list is exhausted, if the hour for private and public bills has not expired, it is clear that we come back to the first opposed bill according to its place on the order paper. That was the purpose of the motion; that is what we had in mind when the motion was adopted by the house, and I cannot see how any hon. member can think otherwise.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I ask a ruling on my point of order. My point is that only to-night this bill was declared to stand. On two previous occasions it stood. That procedure effectively blocked some bills that were on the order paper. I submit that now without the unanimous consent of the house we cannot revert to an earlier order.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): They stand until the others are called.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have listened to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth). On reference to the Votes and Proceedings of April 1, I find that this motion was adopted unanimously:

That, on Tuesdays and Fridays for the balance of the present session, unopposed private and public bills shall have precedence during the hour devoted to private and public bills.

What has been done this time, as on the previous occasion when we had the hour for

private bills, was to proceed with the unopposed bills, and come back to the other bills, as has been said by the Minister of Justice. All the unopposed bills have been disposed of and the others were allowed to stand. I do not see any reason why this bill should not now be taken up. I so rule.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I shall have to appeal against the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr. MacNEIL: Hon. gentlemen opposite block some bills and not others.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have given my ruling. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre having appealed from my ruling, those in favour of the ruling of the Speaker being sustained will say aye.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Aye.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those opposed will say nay.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Nay.

Mr. SPEAKER: In my opinion the nays have it.

INDUSTRIAL LOAN AND FINANCE CORPORATION

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 30, consideration in committee of Bill No. 57, respecting Industrial Loan and Finance Corporation—Mr. Vien—Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, we would like to know the decision of the Speaker. In this corner we heard that "the nays have it." I ask for your decision. Had we not so heard it we would have stood up for a vote.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): The nays have it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is what I said. I ask that the official reporters be asked concerning what they heard.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): You make parliamentary government a joke.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether you are in the chair officially or not.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): He is not.

The CHAIRMAN: I remind the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that the house is now in committee of the whole.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, we in this corner distinctly heard the Speaker say "the nays have it." I would ask whether that is what the Speaker said. If so, we are not in committee. I appeal for a ruling from the Speaker.