

*Extension of Hours*

The motion to extend the hours comes under the new Provisional Standing Orders of the House and was adopted pursuant to a very important parliamentary committee which took a hard look at the way the House operates. It proposed a series of new Standing Orders designed to have the House operate in the way that Members of Parliament, not the Cabinet, not the Prime Minister's office and not the Privy Council office, want it to operate.

Knowing that this Standing Order was available and knowing that the Government's legislative program was stalled, I am surprised that we only received the text of the motion today at about ten minutes to three. This has caused some difficulty but we are prepared to deal with it.

The Government House Leader stated that the Government is prepared to negotiate, but, Mr. Speaker, we in this Party are not prepared to get into negotiations on the floor of the House. Surely the negotiations could take place daily between representatives of Ministers so that the business of the House could flow more smoothly than it has today. It would have been possible to circumvent the motion in the manner suggested by the New Democratic Party perhaps, but on this side we feel that would be contrary to the spirit of parliamentary reform and the way the House should operate.

What is contrary to the way the House should operate is for the Government to lay down the last Opposition day so that Canadair and other problems which might be examined when we are examining the estimates, which might be objected to, which might be brought forward, which might be exposed to the people, are cut off by the Government. What is contrary to the spirit of the way the House should operate is when Ministers make statements to the media instead of making them on motions in the House. I do not object to Ministers dealing with the media but surely they should deal with the House of Commons first. We feel that this is the place where major issues of the day should be debated. The Crow should have been debated here first and not through a series of press releases issued over the last two and half years.

I want to point out to the Government House Leader, to the New Democratic Party and to Canadians that we are here as the Opposition to do business. We are here to debate; we are here to look at Government Bills and there are some important Bills that we would like to see passed. Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, the Progressive Conservative Party, wants the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act passed. We want that Act to come forward so that where improvements in the fishery in Canada are needed, they can go forward. We want Bill C-148, amendments to the Farm Improvement Loans Act (No. 2), brought forward for debate. Bill C-154 which provides for the extension of DREE is even more urgent. The Government House Leader knows how important this is to areas of the country that desperately need the benefits that flow from it. I should tell the Government House Leader unequivocally that we are not going to fall into the trap of having a new Bill coming forward from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce which is designed to eliminate DREE so that the Government can porkbarrel money under that new program to

Grit ridings only. The beauty of the DREE legislation is that it still covers some Conservative ridings and we feel that our people should get the money. So we are not going to fall into that trap.

There is no way that we are going to allow the RDIA Bill to be pushed through as it stands, especially when its employment factors are all out of whack. We desperately want the Canada Student Loans Act to be passed so that students who presently cannot find jobs due to the Liberal mismanagement of the economy can get the loans they need to continue their education.

On Monday the Government laid on the Order Paper the aboriginal rights resolution. Our caucus has discussed this and wants it to go ahead. We feel that it should be debated in the House and we want to see it go to committee.

Bill C-163, the Canadian Aviation Safety Board legislation, is very important. It results from the Dubin Commission report and will make it safer for people to fly.

We have indicated our displeasure with Bill C-152 to reorganize the Government but we have never said that we would stall it. A lot of things have to be improved. No one on this side of the House wants to see a senator made a parliamentary secretary. Good grief, Mr. Speaker, they do little enough as it is for the money they are paid. There is no need to give them a parliamentary secretary's salary as well. That would be an insult to the people of Canada. That part of the Bill will be debated hotly. There are enough parliamentary secretaries in the House who do not know what they are doing, but if they were in the Senate we could not even talk to them.

Bill C-95 deals with sports pools and we are sure that could be dealt with after a reasonable amount of debate.

Each of these items is important to large sectors of the Canadian population. We would be prepared to sit longer hours to make sure that they are dealt with. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, the spirit of the parliamentary reform committee is not always in evidence in the way the Government treats the Opposition. We feel that there should be some protection for the people of Canada who desperately want all that legislation.

On behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party, I move the following amendment to the motion of the Government House Leader:

That the motion be amended by deleting the period after the word "business" and adding the following immediately thereafter:

provided that the sitting hours of the House after 6 p.m. on any day up to and including June 30, 1983, are used to debate the Government's legislative program in the following order until such time as each is disposed of:

I make no comment on the order except to say I have seen it before today and I believe it is reasonable. The order is: Item No. 1, Bill C-147, an Act to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act (No. 2), to which I referred earlier. Item No. 2, Bill C-148, an Act to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act (No. 2). Item 3, Bill C-154, an Act to amend the Regional Development Incentives Act (No. 20). Item 4, Bill C-161, an Act to amend the Canada Student Loans Act (No. 2). Item 5, the aboriginal rights resolution standing on the Order Paper