Business of the House

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Reynolds: I merely wish to support the position taken by the hon. member for Crowfoot. Members from British Columbia will be here next week and they will be listening every day to speeches made on the report stage and third reading of this important bill. They will not be in their ridings; they will be attending and voting on this bill. I see one difficulty here. When we reach report stage it will be necessary to give members notice to enable them to get here. What shall we do between-times before we reach the debate on third reading? Maybe the bill will be defeated at the report stage. I shall vote against this proposition.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, this is partly for clarification somewhat along the lines mentioned by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham relating to the various amendments which might be brought forward either at report stage, which we now have, or at third reading. Does this involve deferred votes for individual amendments during the report stage, or just on third reading?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, allow me to make one or two very simple points. First of all, in support of the House leaders of the other parties in their statements that this was a proposal put forward as a result of discussion among the House leaders, it was not specifically a government proposal but it was one put forward on behalf of all the House leaders who felt, as I did, that it would be undesirable to have snap votes without notice on a measure which is not a government bill in the ordinary sense because no question of confidence is involved.

The views of members are being sought as individuals, not as members of parliament, and that is why this sort of provision is being made, just as it was on second reading. It would, of course, be possible that any of the amendments at the report stage could change the whole nature of the proposal which is being debated in the House, so the voting at the report stage is almost as crucial as the vote on third reading. That is why we have had to include report stage amendments as well as the vote on third reading. We considered this matter at some length, and the conclusion we reached is one which is, in my view, irrefutable.

May I say, in response to the hon. member for Crowfoot, that as far as I know I have not been party to a proposal of this kind in relation to an ordinary government bill. This is a special procedure which relates to a measure which is of a different character, one in which each member has an equal interest. It is not a question of partisan support or party loyalty, but a matter of individual conscience, and for this reason I hope the House will support the motion.

• (1530)

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.
[Mr. Speaker.]

And more than five members having risen:

(1550)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is upon the motion of Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. Allmand, who has moved that any recorded division requested during the consideration of the report stage or the third reading stage of Bill C-84, an act to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and other serious offences, shall be held at a time to be fixed by the House leaders, provided that that time shall be not more than one week after the request for the division.

In line with the proceedings adopted at second reading, which seemed to meet with the approval of members on all sides of the House because of the special nature of the vote, the vote was taken in a special manner at second reading, it would seem that we should take our votes at this stage in the same manner. I would therefore ask all those in the first row to my right to please rise.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Sharp) which was agreed to on the following division:

(Division No. 144)

YEAS Messrs

Abbott Dionne Knowles Alexander (Kamouraska) (Winnipeg Allard North Centre) Allmand (Northumberland-Lachance Anderson Miramichi) Andras Douglas Lalonde (Port Arthur) (Bruce-Grev) Lang Langlois Andres Douglas (Lincoln) (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands) Laniel Appolloni (Mrs.) Lapointe LeBlanc Baker (Gander-Twillingate) (Westmorland-Kent) Dupont Baker Dupras (Grenville-Carleton) Lefebyre Ethier Fairweather Leggatt Basford aulkner Lessard Beaudoin Firth Loiselle Béchard Bégin (Miss) (Chambly) Fleming Loiselle (Saint-Henri) Benjamin Fortin Blais Lumley Fox Blaker Macdonald Francis (Rosedale) Gauthier Boulanger (Roberval) MacDonald (Miss) Breau Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier) (Kingston and the Islands) Buchanan MacFarlane Bussières Gilbert MacGuigan Caccia Gillespie Mackasev Cafik Goodale Macquarrie Campagnolo (Mrs.) Gover Marceau Campbell (Miss)
(South Western Nova) Grafftey Marchand Guay (St. Boniface) (Langelier) Marchand Guay (Lévis) Guilbault (Kamloops-Cariboo) Clark McCleave McIsaac (Rocky Mountain) Clermont Harquail McRae Milne Nicholson (Miss) Herbert Comtois Hnatyshyn Condon Nystrom Corbin O'Connell Corriveau Hopkins Olivier Côté Isabelle Orlikow Cyr Danson Jamieson Ouellet Johnston Paproski Daudlin Joval Parent De Bané Kaplan Pelletier Demers Penner