

Business of the House

• (1810)

I would like to conclude by just recalling that on November 24, 1989, almost two years ago, this House of Commons unanimously passed a motion which read: "That this House express its concern for the more than one million Canadian children currently living in poverty and seek to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000."

I would also like to call to the attention of this House that in 1965, almost 26 years ago, in the Speech from the Throne, the Canada Assistance Plan was one of the five elements in a program designed to abolish poverty in Canada. What have we done today? There is a bill before us to abolish the very basic program that will abolish poverty in the country. That, I think, is the sensitivity of this government. Truly pachydermatous, Mr. Speaker. No social conscience at all. I wish this government would wake up and withdraw this bill.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I think you will find a predisposition in the Chamber for unanimous consent to the following motion, which was being worked on for a good part of the day:

That notwithstanding the Standing Orders and usual practices of the House, that when the second reading debate begins on Bill C-19, an act respecting bank and banking, it shall be deemed that Bill C-28, an act respecting insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies, and Bill C-34, an act to revise and amend the law governing co-operative credit associations, and to provide for related and consequential matters are called jointly with Bill C-19 for second reading debate,

That Standing Order 11(2) be suspended for the duration of the debate,

That the debate be held on the subject matter covered in the three said legislations,

That immediately after Bill C-19 has been disposed of, The Speaker shall put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment, all the questions necessary to dispose of both Bill C-28 and Bill C-34 at second reading in that order, and that Bills C-19, C-28 and C-34 be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. member was going to go on and add another paragraph and talk about the reduction of the Prime Minister's salary down to \$1, but since he did not do that, I think there might be disposi-

tion within our party to give our consent to the contents of this motion.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I am also House leader today.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there has been consultation and we are quite prepared to support this motion. I just want to point out that we are facilitating debate in this House by combining three bills and one would hope that the government will allow those members who wish to speak to do so without resorting to any time allocation or closure.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I might just respond to my friend that if the Prime Minister were paid by private sector standards for the responsibility and the skill, the salary might be six or seven times as large as he now gets at a minimum.

Mr. Speaker, I think you might also find a predisposition on the part of the House for unanimous consent to the following motion:

That when the debate collapses on Bill C-32 this day, that the question not be put and that the Chair call it seven o'clock and begin the Private Members' hour debate.

The effect of that, if the House is that way inclined, for all those members who are waiting behind the curtains and other places, would be that there would be no vote today and probably the next substantive vote in the House would likely occur Monday about six o'clock, so members would have greater certitude about the impact of that motion.

Mr. Dingwall: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I, too, wish to give the consent of my party with regard to the second motion. Just to clarify it so that there is no doubt, my colleague from Eglinton—Lawrence, my colleague from Prince Edward—Hastings, my colleague from Ottawa South and my colleague from Halifax will be the speakers who will follow. Then, in accordance with the motion, as read by the chief government Whip, it would then be called seven o'clock with no vote tonight and presumably a vote later, next week.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, it my intention to call the item on Friday morning and, if nobody rises, then we would have the voice vote and a deferral which would then take us through until Monday at 6 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Members have heard the first motion *à propos des projets de loi à incidences financières*.