

I want it clearly understood that in closing this off at this time I am not in any way taking away from the substantive points the Hon. Member for York Centre has made. The Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), I hope on a different matter.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, certainly in view of the suggestion that has been made, that the debate on this question of privilege is merely being adjourned and Your Honour is not in any way ruling with respect to the merits of the question of privilege, I do not intend to make the argument which myself and colleagues, including our House Leader and Whip, wish to make as well. We certainly feel very strongly that the precedents in Erskine May and elsewhere with respect to the use of this Draconian device of closure are very real.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Burnaby is also a very skilled and persuasive Member of this place. The Hon. Member for Burnaby will have every chance to argue this matter further, if it is in fact necessary. But I would ask Hon. Members to co-operate with the Chair.

At the moment, in view of what the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary says, I think it is in the interests of this place that the very debate Members are asking for be allowed to take place.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on another point of order. It is also a very fundamental question on which I seek some assistance from the Parliamentary Secretary. I do not intend in any way to pursue the question of privilege.

In view of the fact that the Government has given notice on this matter, another difficulty arises. Having given notice on this question, the Government can in fact introduce this motion at any time and then that same sitting, after a full debate, there will be a vote at one o'clock in the morning according to Standing Order 57.

In view of the extraordinary gravity of the issue, which is literally a question of life and death, and in view of the importance that all Members be in a position to be in the House for a vote on this very important question, I seek the assurance from the Parliamentary Secretary that now that notice of closure has been given under Standing Order 57 that Members of the House on all sides be given adequate notice, at least a day's notice ahead of time, should the Government decide that it wishes to pursue this matter, in order that all Members can at least be present for the vote on this very important question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to thank the Hon. Member for Burnaby for accepting my suggestion to move away from the question of privilege. The Hon. Member for Burnaby is clearly now on a point of order which goes directly to the heart of what are the Government's intentions in this debate. Of course, the Government is under no obligation to respond, but

*Point of Order—Mr. Nickerson*

under the circumstances I would certainly hear the Parliamentary Secretary. The Parliamentary Secretary may want to say that that is a matter for private discussion.

However, I accept what the Hon. Member for Burnaby has said as a point of order on an important matter.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to say that we have consistently suggested that there would be a free vote on this matter. That is government policy.

I am prepared to say that along with the free vote goes adequate notice of the time of a free vote. I would give my undertaking to that extent. I hope that in return, my hon. friend would undertake not to delay the taking of that free vote once adequate notice is given.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not for the Chair to comment as to whether or not the exchange that has just taken place is satisfactory to both parties. But it is probably sensible for the Chair to suggest that both Parties might discuss the matter a little further, although there seems to be some disposition to co-operate in this matter.

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● (1040)

**POINT OF ORDER**

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very different point of order which deals with the technicalities of the way in which Bill S-10 has been placed on the Order Paper. Bill S-10 is a Private Member's private Bill originating in the Senate. It is an Act to Revive Yellowknife Electric Ltd. and to provide for its continuance under the Canada Business Corporations Act.

With the substance of the Bill I am in complete agreement. However, I have some queries as to how it finds itself as an item having precedence No. 11 on the table on page 31 of today's Order Paper dealing with the order of precedence of Private Members' business.

You will know, Sir, that precedence is established pursuant to Standing Order 31 which deals with the draw and items which do not have to go through the draw process are dealt with under Standing Order 41. If I might be permitted to read into the record Standing Order 41(1) which states as follows:

The order for the first consideration of any subsequent stages of a Bill already considered during Private Members' Business, of second reading of a Private Bill—

And here we come to the operative part.

—and of second reading of a private Member's public Bill originating in the Senate shall be placed at the bottom of the order of precedence.

Therefore, Sir, had Bill S-10 been a private Member's public Bill, it would, in my opinion, quite properly appear