

*Plant Breeders' Rights*

would be convenient for everyone to hear the matter on the floor of the House.

I would ask for perhaps another day's indulgence by Hon. Members. As I indicated yesterday, this particular procedure has not been invoked for many years and I do not want to take Members by surprise. That in no way prejudices one way or the other how we will deal with it, but it is an interesting point.

It is a point of importance to the Chamber, and I think that probably some time later today arrangements can be made between my office and Hon. Members as to an appropriate time to hear some argument on it. That will also give Hon. Members a chance to look up some of the background.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52****FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to propose a motion to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the threat to fundamental rights and freedoms of Canadians, in particular the freedom of the press, constituted by the laying of criminal charges against a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery for actions taken in the legitimate pursuit of his profession.

**Mr. Speaker:** The first thing I want to comment upon is that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James has followed to the letter the appropriate method of presenting an application for an emergency debate. I would hope that the example he has given in conciseness and specifics would be noticed by other Hon. Members.

I should also record that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James has given appropriate notice of this matter. The Chair is extremely cognizant of the importance of the matter and it is, of course, one of the great traditions of our democratic system relating to the freedom of the press and its ability to function, to inform the public.

However, having looked at this matter, realizing the importance of the matter not just to the Hon. Member but to all Hon. Members in this place, and I think to people in free countries, it does not seem to the Speaker

to come within those guidelines which would justify the Speaker ruling for an emergency debate.

I point out to the Hon. Member and other Hon. Members that there are other means by which this matter can be pursued. It is of course a matter of great importance and not allowing the emergency debate in no way diminishes the importance of the question with respect to our democratic process. I thank the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James again for the concise and effective way he put his point.

• (1120)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[*English*]

**PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS ACT****MEASURE TO ENACT**

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture)** moved that Bill C-15, an Act respecting plant breeders' rights, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to present for the consideration of the House a motion respecting the second reading of Bill C-15, an Act to establish plant breeders' rights in Canada.

This legislation is long overdue and enjoys a broad base of support. I believe it is essential if we are to maintain our competitive edge in plant production. Therefore, particularly since it has been the subject of debate in the House and throughout the country, it seems to me that it is timely that the Bill be brought forward for ratification.

The merits of this legislation are well understood by those individuals who have been proponents of it, those who are involved in the production of seeds. The organizations to which I refer have been a part of the process. This has not been a unilateral step that has been taken by the federal Government. There have been a number of ongoing discussions and consultations with them. They, too, consider that this legislation is imperative.