

Business of the House

On behalf of my party let me say there is no such accusation. At the time we did not know what happened. In fact I met my colleague, the House leader of the Liberal Party, in the middle of the floor as he was approaching the Clerk to find out what was going on.

I might say this, and I do not want to start an argument, the hon. member will recall that during that vote his members all had placards in contravention of the privilege—

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): What do you mean by placards?

Mr. McDermid: Props.

Mr. Andre: If he reads the intervention of my friend, the member for Peace River, in terms of what constitutes disorder in the House, he will see that props and so on are mentioned in that.

It was not that big a deal. We did not raise a question of privilege on that or comment on it, but one can understand that in the heat of the moment on a very vital issue, when his members stood up with props, that invites the accusation that perhaps they were doing other things as well.

If it has offended, I say on behalf of my party, without qualification, we apologize if there were any intentions of blaming the hon. member for that demonstration.

Mr. Brewin: You're a total jerk, Andre.

Mr. Andre: I just ask him to understand what might have motivated some of our members to think that way.

Mr. Speaker: I think that properly ends the matter.

The hon. House leader of the government has made an absolutely clear statement that in no respect whatsoever is it the position of the government that the New Democratic Party was in any way involved in that altercation. I think that ends the matter.

[*Translation*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, today, Wednesday, April 11, the House will adjourn later this afternoon. I wonder whether the Government House Leader would be prepared to tell hon. members what the legislative program will be when we return on April 23 so that they can prepare for the debate on it.

[*English*]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention, when we return on Monday, April 23, to call Bill C-69, the expenditures reduction bill and to continue with that on Tuesday, April 24. I will be in discussions with my colleagues in terms of future business.

I might have been inclined to bring forward a message in terms of Bill C-21 for the Senate, but I understand it has gone on vacation until some time in May.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: There is a rule about saying uncomplimentary things about the other place. I do not know whether that fits or not.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but rise to the bait here.

I just wonder if the House leader is telling us that he will bring a message in before you, Sir, rule on the point of order before the House. We think we should wait for the Speaker to rule on the point before the minister brings in a message.

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to keep us out of Room 216 too long.

No, that is not my intention, but perhaps the Chair could offer some advice, as suggested by one of my colleagues, about how one says something uncomplimentary about the other place.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!