

Atlantic Development Board

board and for the payment of certain expenses of the members thereof, to provide for the appointment of an executive director of the board and for the payment of his remuneration, to provide further that the board may engage the services of such advisers and staff as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its duties and to provide further for other related and incidental matters.

The Clerk Assistant having proceeded to read the order:

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is of some importance that the house should hear the resolution that is before it by listening to the clerk.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I would therefore ask hon. members if they would moderate their conversations at this time.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because of the perhaps, unavoidable noise that there was in the house when Your Honour called the first item of business, before one realized it Your Honour declared it adopted. With the very greatest respect, that kind of procedure—and I beg Your Honour not to misunderstand this—makes it impossible for members of the house to do their work properly. The third reading of the food and drugs bill was passed within seconds while members were still getting arranged in their seats after questions were asked. I would respectfully object to that kind of haste; there is no need for it. I would respectfully request that we turn back to that item of business, because we—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. It is connected with another important matter on the order paper, namely the special committee, and I submit that there is no reason why this house should suddenly start rushing third reading of an important bill through in seconds. I would ask that the Chair consider reverting to that item of business, so the members of the house may have an opportunity to deal with it as it should properly be dealt with.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will hear the hon. member on the point of order.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is raising a point on which there is little argument. I believe it has always been well established in the house that if an item is called and no one rises to object to it, the house and the

Speaker assume that the item is agreed to. There was quite some time before the hon. member did rise to raise objection. The item was certainly called. It was the first order of business announced for this afternoon and, while I realize that it was passed quickly, nevertheless there was no objection made and I do not think we should now turn back to it, because another order is in the process of being read.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Lapointe on the point of order.

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is not so much that I want the house to come back to the bill that has been adopted, but I would like to support the remarks made a few minutes ago, by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) to the effect that often measures are approved very quickly, without the members' knowledge, especially at the beginning of the evening sitting or after the question period. Since the beginning of this session, on two occasions, measures were adopted within a few seconds, without our having any knowledge of it or having the opportunity to state our views.

That is why I support the remarks made by the hon. member for York South and I would add that, when motions are presented and the house is asked to support a bill, you should do it both in French and in English.

(Text):

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member still on the point of order?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, before Your Honour makes a ruling. I understand the parliamentary secretary to have said that there was time to rise. Maybe there was, if I were a lot faster than I sometimes am, or if I were a jack in the box, or other hon. members were. But with very great respect, Your Honour called the order, it was read, and whether Your Honour looked to see whether any one was getting to his feet I do not know, because by the time I rose to my feet I heard the words "Carried; adopté". There is no intention on the part of our party to hold up this legislation, but we do have what we think is an important point to place before the house. The matter was passed far too quickly for any member to have an opportunity to rise to his feet without being in a race with Your Honour, and I do not propose to race with you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: For one thing, of course the Chair will not accept any suggestion that it is moving too rapidly. The Chair is following