

Motions

Although I am not a frequent defender of our socialist colleagues in the corner, I say that Members have a responsibility, not just a right, to ask questions, particularly when there is a glaring example of a Department in a shambles. This point of order is not only inappropriate but it is an embarrassment to the mind that dreamed it up.

Mr. Langdon: Madam Speaker, I rise on the same point of order—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): This point of order was raised and one person from each Party has had an opportunity to offer his opinion and the Chair has listened very carefully. It seems to the Chair that it is obviously a point of disagreement and a point that could be debated between the different Parties but it is certainly not a point of order. The Chair would like to move on to Routine Proceedings.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION TO EXTEND HOURS OF SITTING

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, there have been discussions between Parties and I believe you would find that there is unanimous consent to the moving and passing of two motions. I will deal with them individually. The first motion is as follows:

That, during the period commencing Tuesday, June 16, 1987 up to and including Tuesday, June 30, 1987, the House shall meet at 11 o'clock a.m. and continue to sit without interruption until 10 o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the House shall meet at two o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 1987, and continue to sit without interruption until 10 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of considering Government Orders;

Provided that:

1. Standing Order 9(2) respecting the mid-day interruption, Standing Order 19(3) respecting Routine Proceedings and Standing Order 19(4) respecting Members Statements and Oral Question Period shall continue to apply;
2. For the purpose of Standing Order 19(7) Private Members' Business shall be taken up and considered from 6 o'clock p.m. until 7 o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays;
3. For the purposes of this order the adjournment debate shall be suspended and the Speaker shall adjourn the House not later than 10 o'clock p.m.
4. Following the adoption of this motion, no motion under Standing Order 10(1) shall be receivable on Monday, June 15, 1987.

• (1210)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The House has heard the terms of the motion. Does the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have the unanimous consent of the House to move this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following motion has also been considered by the Parties. I move:

That, notwithstanding any Standing or special Order of this House, in relation to the hours of sitting in effect on Thursday, June 18, 1987, at 8 o'clock p.m. on that day the House shall revert to Statements by Ministers for a statement by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the tabling of any Ways and Means Notices of Motion and other documents related thereto; and

That following replies pursuant to Standing Order 19(6)(a), the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting day.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The House has heard the terms of the motion. Does the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have the unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Madam Speaker, we are ready to give consent to this motion being moved and adopted as we did for the previous motion. I only want to observe that these two motions, particularly the one just moved for extended hours, show that our rules make it possible for accommodation to be given when the Government wants to have its programs considered in a timely fashion without departing from the system of meeting within a fixed calendar to do parliamentary business. The rules accommodate that now as they did before.

I think it should be on the record that these motions, particularly the latter one, enable us not to give up our roles as parliamentarians and members of opposition Parties while, at the same time, enabling the Government to put forward for consideration its business without using measures which undermine the basic concept of the rules that we meet within fixed dates.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I would like to add my comments to those of the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray). It is interesting to note that both of these motions have been agreed to by the House Leaders and will be accepted by all members of this House.

With regard to the Government talking about sitting in the summer or requesting extended hours, it is important that in the future the Government introduce legislation which it believes to be important early enough in the session that the public will have a chance to know what legislation is before the House and that we will not be forced to pass legislation through all stages, quite often within one half day.

I believe that such situations deny the public its right to participate and involve itself in the legislation which is brought before this House and passed by it in the last few days before the end of June.