

Mr. Lewis: Just hold on for a moment—but also two members of my party moved motions under Standing Order 43 which the Liberals of this House did not permit to come before the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ought to inform you and the government House leader that, so far as I am concerned, this motion is debatable and will be debated.

An hon. Member: Good.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Of course all motions are debatable. The only leave the hon. member is seeking is leave for dispensation from the usual notice; if no notice is required under the terms of Standing Order 43, because of the unanimous consent granted by the House the motion will be put. However, I think hon. members ought to keep in mind that this is a supply day, and it has been agreed that the party to my extreme left, which is not necessarily the party to the extreme left in this House—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker:—shall move a motion which is to be debated later today. Perhaps after the motion has been put, and because there appears to be unanimous consent, there might be consultation between the party representatives to try to clarify the situation so that the party which has the responsibility for moving the supply motion today will be treated fairly. All this having been said, I will put the motion because there has been unanimous consent.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I am not at all anxious to interfere with the motion now on the order paper with respect to this supply day, but I want to make it clear that the Liberals cannot get away with the kind of partisanship they are trying to get away with.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have not completed my point of order. Could I have Your Honour's indulgence—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Essentially the hon. member, is repeating what he said a moment ago. The matter is clear to me. I inquired whether there was unanimous consent, and I am prepared to put the motion.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the additional point I want to make is that if your words of advice, which I suggest with respect are very fair, are to be adopted, then your putting the motion now does not mean that either the motion will be passed without debate or that the debate is to follow immediately upon your putting the motion. That was the point.

Oil Pollution

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The terms of the Standing Order and the rules are very clear. There must be unanimous consent for the motion to be put. There is unanimous consent for the motion to be put. Of course, any motion is subject to debate, and if hon. members want to debate it all day that is up to them. I will put the motion. Mr. Pringle, seconded by Mr. Robinson, moves:

That in the light of the damage in Canada and the United States arising from the recent oil spill at the Cherry Point refinery this House support the urgency of a reference to the International Joint Commission of the environmental consequences of the movement of oil in the narrow waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Georgia Strait, and Puget Sound both now and in the future and of the measures necessary to minimize the hazards, and requests the Secretary of State for External Affairs to immediately convey the terms of this motion to the government of the United States.

The hon. member for Fraser Valley East.

• (1440)

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have been in the House this week and I have heard motions similar in wording and almost identical in content proposed by at least one or two other members. I am asking Your Honour for some direction.

I thought there was a rule of the House that when a motion is put and disposed of it cannot be reactivated or resurrected during the same session. Is this not an attempt to bring in through the back door something that could not be brought in through the front? If that is allowed, members who are asleep at the switch day in and day out will be able to rise on the same subject matter and utilize and prostitute the same Standing Order just to show that they are half awake.

If we do not invoke the longstanding procedure of the House that when a motion has been put, even though there was not unanimous consent, the matter has in effect been disposed of for that session, the number of times that hon. members will move spurious motions will proliferate. Even though this motion has a lot in favour of it, the motions of other members earlier in the week said much more.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows the rules. When there has been a debate on a matter and a decision has been taken by the House, the rules are that the matter should not be brought before the House a second time for consideration during the same session. Of course, when there is a denial of unanimous consent the matter cannot be said to have come before the House at all.

I bring to the attention of hon. members that the rules apply not only to the fact that a matter is debated in the House but to the fact that a decision is taken. If a decision is taken, if a vote is taken on a motion, the Standing Orders and the practices of the House are clear. The matter cannot come up for discussion a second time. At that time, of course, the point taken by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley would be well taken and would have to be taken into account.