Mr. Andras: I am very glad the hon. member brought that up; I do want to clear that up. It is not our intention to tamper with those kinds of involuntary situations, so disability or early retirement for health reasons and that sort of thing will get the same treatment as in the past. That will be an exception from this change.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Is the same not true for widows and other survivors?

Mr. Andras: Whatever the present practice is.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is what the minister said in his press release.

Mr. Andras: Yes.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been consultations among the House leaders concerning eight private members' public bills on the order paper, all having as their object the changing of names of electoral districts. As a result of discussions among House leaders I believe there is agreement to pass these bills through all stages this afternoon without debate in order to effect the changes which hon. members from both sides of the House deem desirable. However, I understand that there is one bill in the name of the hon. member for Compton which has not as yet been introduced, so I ask the Chair to call that public bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Because there has been some agreement not to see the clock perhaps we can get into private members' hour as we normally do and consider that the House has reached the point where we can now proceed to private members' business as listed on today's order paper, but by agreement the House will consider some private members' bills concerning changes of names of electoral districts. In particular, we will deal with the proposal of the parliamentary secretary to introduce a bill proposed by the hon. member for Compton and consider it together with the six or seven other bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[Translation]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

CHANGES IN NAMES OF CONSTITUENCIES

Mr. Yvon Pinard (for the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Tessier)) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-423, respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With the unanimous consent of the House, second reading will follow with that of the other bills enumerated by the hon. member. Does the House agree?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, on behalf of the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Tessier) to move this bill, which will now bear number 423. In consequence, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker): That Bills C-267, C-358, C-412, C-414, C-415, C-417, C-418 and C-423 be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole House.

[English]

Motion agreed to, bills read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

An hon. Member: Six o'clock.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, as I understood the order of business for today, Bill C-1001 in the name of the hon. member for Scarborough East was to have been brought forward. However, because of the events of the day and the important statement which has been made, that has proved impossible. I understand that there have been some arrangements with respect to that bill which may facilitate its passage. Can I assume that that bill will be called next Thursday? Is there agreement to that effect, or can it be called now? If it is to be called now, I would indicate on behalf of my own party that we would be prepared to have that matter cleared away immediately. It was to be the first item of business today. It has been forced out by events, the member is here, and there may be more members who wish to speak; but I think it is appropriate, because of the sense of unanimity that there is in the House, that we might deal with the bill at the moment. I would say to you, sir, that my contribution to the bill would be approximately three lines, and I would think it would be most fair if we allowed the member to proceed now.

• (1822)

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, if we do not immediately dispose of that bill as mentioned by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), as far as we are concerned we will see that it is allowed to stand, in accordance with the standing orders.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is true that there was a hope that we would have 15 or 20 minutes in the private member's hour to deal with Bill C-1001 but events beyond our control have changed that situation. We do not feel that the House should be asked to put it through in