

Business of the House

did not intend to put a cabinet shuffle in motion at this point. The Hon. Minister of State for the Treasury Board.

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, it has just been pointed out to me by the Whip of the Official Opposition that I made my first error as Deputy House Leader.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: This morning when I suggested, because all Parties had discussed the matter, that we would defer all recorded divisions until tomorrow at 6 p.m., I unfortunately said "the final recorded division".

Mr. Prud'homme: Stick to it.

Mr. Lewis: It was the intention of the House that we would give as much time as possible for debate today and this evening. Therefore, I would like to correct the record and have it read that "there have been discussions among the Parties with respect to the final recorded divisions on Bill C-130", which would, under the rules, take place at 9.45 p.m. tonight. I think you will find unanimous consent to defer the recorded divisions on second reading of Bill C-130 until 6 p.m. tomorrow evening.

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, since I was brought on to the scene, I did bring the matter to the attention of the Hon. Minister. He has my copy which I underlined for him. This morning the Minister made a Freudian slip. It was clear to me that he wanted the final recorded division, but later on he said "the last recorded division". There was no "s" to make the word plural. I took it that it was the main motion that would be put tomorrow night and that we would deal, as we did this morning, with any subamendments or amendments that were before the House prior adjourning tonight. I thought that was the disposition.

Tomorrow, we will be debating Bill C-72 if I understand correctly. Maybe the Minister could confirm that to me. If we are, there may be several votes if the amendments are still on the books. I think it could be a very long evening. He is just adding to tomorrow night's voting patterns.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: Madam Speaker, I must tell you that I also read the Order Paper for the House this morning, and it is just like—because the Minister knows that it must be unanimous, anyway. That is what I understood this morning, that we would hold all the votes on amendments this evening, today, but that the final recorded division would be tomorrow night. So I do not see why we do not dispose of all the other minor votes, the subamendments, this evening, as we did today. I am just repeating what our whip said.

Now, if my whip, not the house leader, but my whip tells me that he agrees, I will give my support, but I still want to say very clearly that this is not what we agreed on today.

I am looking at my whip there and he is busy talking. If my whip tells me that he agrees, I will agree with my whip, but otherwise, I will not give my support. But if my whip tells me that he understood it could be done, I will gladly do so.

[English]

Make it the final recorded division.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: To respond to the invitation of the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), I have only one request and a modest one at that. I would like to ask the Government and the New Democratic Party to give the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) who is sitting here in the House, who is waiting very patiently and would like to take part in the debate, a chance to speak. If the House agrees to let the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides speak for the ten minutes he is allowed before we adjourn this evening, I will agree to the changes proposed by the Minister.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: Madam Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I confirm what the Deputy House Leader has said, that we will be voting on the free trade legislation tomorrow before report stage on Bill C-72. That was the understanding and agreement at the House Leaders' meeting today, I am told by the House Leader of our Party.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Maybe it is the late hour, but things still seem a little confused. I suggest that we continue with debate and maybe the House Leaders can get together and come up with a final decision to help the Chair.

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, didn't I make it very plain? Anything clearer than that would be Calabogie spring water.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gauthier: The Government proposes that all divisions be deferred until tomorrow night at 6 p.m. We accept that on one condition, namely, that the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides has a chance to make his 10-minute contribution to the debate today.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): If points of order are put aside, we will have time to hear at least one Member from each of the Parties before adjournment. We would hear first the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville, followed by the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides.

The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier said that there was agreement, as long as the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides was heard tonight. The Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville has the floor now, and I will come to the other Hon. Member a little later.