

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) has indicated that he plans to proceed regardless of the suggestion made by yourself or by others in this House in terms of a more businesslike manner in which to proceed.

I do wish to indicate clearly that I take exception to the position taken by the Hon. Deputy House Leader when he blames this debacle on the Member from Winnipeg. The Government has obviously made a gross error in bungling even the introduction of this major announcement, and it is a major announcement.

If this is the manner in which the Government plans to introduce this major change in government policy, God help us in terms of what that change will actually result in.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I too am disappointed that the Government has decided not to wait until 12 or 12.15 p.m., which would have been in the spirit of reform that we were told was introduced in this place, along with respect for members of all Parties who do not sit on the cabinet benches. I am sure my friend from British Columbia, although he has only recently arrived on the cabinet benches, is outraged, but is compelled by his cabinet solidarity to sit and say nothing.

• (1140)

Let me say to the Deputy Prime Minister that we hope this does not happen again. As I listened over the last 20 minutes of debate which Your Honour has wisely allowed, I have hardly had time to read the full 10 pages of the statement.

However, because Your Honour allowed this debate so that important points could be made, I nevertheless was able to focus on the important points being made and on the 10 page document.

With regret I now sit down and await the Minister's statement. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, if you know what I mean.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will hear one other Member on this point of order. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston.

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and the Government have considered that this is a very serious decision which they are about to announce. I am also wondering whether the Government has considered the impact of this statement, in particular on the stock markets. This is a matter which will result in the privatization of a significant portion—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member. He may well have a very important point, but it is beyond the point of order we are discussing.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a personal point of privilege. I did not want to raise the issue, but since the NDP House Leader raised it, I hope the Government will have the

French copies available to all of us at this time, so that some members of my caucus who cannot work in the English language could follow and possibly read the document as soon as possible. Make it a practice, please.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point. I was unaware of that.

[Translation]

I can assure you I was entirely unaware of the fact that no French copy is available for my colleague who wishes to take part in this debate. I think that is really going too far, Mr. Speaker. I know the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mazankowski). I know he is a reasonable man. I am sure he would agree to postpone his statement until 12.15 p.m. We are not asking for the moon!

[English]

May I draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that we are now entering what perhaps will be the longest 12 weeks in a row since I have sat in Parliament. There will be no adjournment, nothing.

I am sure the Deputy Prime Minister knows that he will get my total co-operation if I could at times cool the atmosphere. However, it is going to be a hell of a long 12 weeks in the House, and this is not the way to proceed today.

It is a major announcement. We do not even have the French text. Mr. Speaker, you know that I am always sensitive when we talk about French and English.

[Translation]

But we don't even have the French copy. We cannot proceed at this time. Mr. Speaker, I suggest you make a special appeal to the Deputy Prime Minister and have the speech postponed. It is already 11.45 a.m.. Soon it will be noon, and we might go on talking until 12.15 p.m. Please try and show some co-operation. We aren't asking for the moon.

[English]

**Mr. Nunziata:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member on a very short intervention.

**Mr. Nunziata:** This is not the first time the Government has introduced matters in the House without having the document in both official languages, at a time when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Government are critical of what is happening in the Province of Saskatchewan where minority language rights—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** I am very sorry about this because, as I said before, we have a tradition in this House of co-operation among the Parties and it includes giving the Opposition advance copies of Ministers' statements. Apparently, today