

No. 9

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1970

11.00 o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

Agreed,—That when this House rises at 1.00 o'clock p.m. the sitting shall stand suspended until 8.00 o'clock p.m.

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been the practice at the outset of the past several sessions to give, by unanimous consent, First Reading in a group to the numerous Public Bills standing for introduction by private Members and thereby allow such bills to proceed to the Second Reading Stage with a *caveat* to the effect that every bill would be examined by the Chair before it is proposed for Second Reading in order to ensure that each bill met the requirements of the rules and practices of the House.

The reason for such a procedure is the great number of bills which have been received and which, on this occasion, has reached an all time record. Time did not afford an opportunity to examine the bills in detail. Before suggesting to the House that this procedure and

practice be followed again this year I should like to make a few references to certain procedures which seem to be evolving in connection with such private Members' bills. In the first instance, the number of bills being introduced far exceeds the number of opportunities that will be provided for the consideration of such bills in this session. In like manner some members have given notice of several or more bills. In one case an honourable Member has filed notice of more than 40 private Members' bills in his name. I do not like to suggest in any way that it is not the honourable Members' right to do so. The rules as they stand at present allow any honourable Member to propose for consideration by the House any number of private bills.

Inevitably, however, the bills proposed by that honourable Member, or by that particular honourable Member, will take up a disproportionate share of the time allotted for the consideration of private Members' bills.