

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

**PROCEEDINGS ON
ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

be called on Monday for report and third reading. In the two successive days in that week, perhaps even on Monday as well as on Tuesday and Wednesday, it is the intention to call the three budget bills resulting from the June 3 budget. These will be called in the following order: No. 27, the Customs Act amendment; No. 34, the Excise Tax Act amendment; and No. 26, the Income Tax Act amendment. As I indicated, it is hoped that business will be completed by the adjournment on Wednesday.

On Thursday and Friday of next week we intend to call the motion to refer the white paper on taxation to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs in order to permit the House to debate in general terms the tax proposals contained in the white paper. I hope some time during the course of the week to propose to the House the making of a special order on speech time limits to permit the maximum number of members to participate. As I indicated, I concur with the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken) in calling it ten o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: If it is the desire of hon. members, we will now call it ten o'clock and proceed to the adjournment debate. I fear there may be a slight difficulty. On the basis that we would proceed at ten o'clock with the first question on the agenda, the minister who would normally reply to this question is not yet in the House. Normally the minister would be here at ten o'clock. I wonder whether the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) wants to proceed at this time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Could we not just sit for two or three minutes, Mr. Speaker, and wait for the minister to arrive? There is no law against it.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I wonder if there is more than one question. We might perhaps juggle the order.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the second question has been withdrawn. With regard to the third question, the same difficulty arises as with the first. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre says there is nothing in the rules which states we cannot just sit around and say nothing. It may be legal, but it certainly will be very unusual.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Maybe we could sing something.

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**OLD AGE SECURITY—INQUIRY AS TO
AMENDING BILL**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think we have proven something, namely, that it does not hurt us to sit and meditate for a moment or two. I hope the result will be a favourable answer from the government side. I gather that although we were waiting for the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro), we will hear from his parliamentary secretary instead. My question this evening arises from a question that I asked on Wednesday, November 12, as recorded in *Hansard* at pages 738 and 739. The entry in *Hansard* is as follows:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Toward the end of last session there was a list of bills given, many of which were not reached. One of them was a bill to amend the Old Age Security Act. In view of the fact that such a bill was not included in the list of bills that the Prime Minister tabled on the first day of this session, may I ask the minister whether there will be such a bill during the course of this session?

The Minister of National Health and Welfare replied as follows:

It is highly unlikely, Mr. Speaker.

The point of my question and my reason for raising it again tonight is surely quite clear. Toward the end of the last session we were given a list of bills that it was hoped would be dealt with before the first session prorogued. That list included a bill to amend the Old Age Security Act, but we did not reach it. Whenever I see something of that nature, I hope for the best. I hope it means a substantial increase in the pension paid under that legislation. I must say, however, that I knew that was too much to hope for last session.

I understood the purpose of that proposed bill was to deal with certain anomalies in the Old Age Security Act, and I had hoped those anomalies would have been dealt with during the last session. I was therefore quite surprised when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on the first day of this new session in tabling a list of bills for us to deal with did