

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Kamloops is seeking the floor on the same point.

**Mr. Riis:** I just wish to correct the point made by the Government House Leader when he said that this was the only way to have extended the sitting. There are two other ways. He could have consulted with the opposition House Leaders, both of whom were in the building at the time. Also, had he come clean with the House of Commons and explained that there was a situation pending, with unanimous consent we could have agreed to not see the clock and the hours could have been extended beyond six o'clock. However, he did not come clean with the House of Commons; he tried to pull a fast one on us.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Windsor West is seeking the floor. I will hear him and the the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis.

I do wish to point out that this is becoming debate. It is the issue upon which the entire privilege debate is taking place and which is going to be resumed shortly. I will hear the Hon. Member for Windsor West, but I would ask him to keep that in mind, and then I will hear the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, shortly before the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis) entered the House to move a motion under Standing Order 26 I went briefly to the Parliamentary Reading Room around the corner. When I returned to the lobby I was informed that the Minister had just put his motion, and seeing no reason that I could think of to justify a motion to extend hours on Bill C-9, a Bill to amend the Bank Act, I went into the House with my colleagues to stand up and oppose the motion.

It is a gross distortion, to say the least, for the Minister of Justice to accuse me or any Members of the House who opposed the motion at that time of not being willing to co-operate in dealing with the problem the Government created for itself in not maintaining the security of its Budget.

If the Minister of Justice had come clean with the House Leader for the New Democratic Party and myself, at the time he came into the House, things might very well have been different.

While I spend a lot of time trying to read the minds, if I may use that word loosely, of Government Members and discern what they are up to in their proceedings in

the House, there is no way that I or anyone on this side of the House could have figured out the real reason for the Minister moving the motion.

It does raise a question regarding the privileges of the House when the Minister comes into the House and moves a motion for one purpose when he has another much more serious purpose in mind and fails to disclose that to people like myself who might well have something to do with the arrangements of the Business of the House.

It is also a breach of the privileges of all Members for the Minister of Justice, in effect, to project on Members such as myself any responsibility for the problem he got into because of his own negligence and incompetence.

• (1510)

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I was here last night at exactly 5.56 p.m. I was here for the hour before that but I was here when the Hon. Minister raised the question.

**Mrs. McDougall:** You are always here.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Yes, I am always here. The reason I rise today is that my name is there and I participated as you can see it recorded in *Hansard* at page 1001. I do not want to complicate your task further today but I would like to say that if I had been given any indication why the Minister came here to interrupt and ask to proceed according to Standing Order 26(1) which states:

That this House continue to sit beyond the ordinary hour of daily adjournment for the purpose of continuing consideration of second reading of Bill C-9, an Act to amend the Bank Act.

That is what I objected to last night. If you read page 1001 of *Hansard* you will find it is that to which I was referring. I could not understand why so early in the session the Government wanted to poison the atmosphere by sitting later on the first day of debate on a Bill. One usually does that toward the end of a session when Members talk too long, when the Government has its own agenda and wants to have more legislation to show it has been doing something for the good of the country. But so early in the session, I could not understand why the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lewis), the House Leader, and a good friend—we can debate very passionately in this House without destroying the system, that is my style—would not have indicated the reason. I feel that I am a responsible and an orderly Member and I would have rushed to my leader—I do not like to have a boss but I know how to proceed—