

Business of the House

Mr. Pinard: If hon. members do not feel well, they may get out. I do not mind.

Mr. Beatty: Did you speak yesterday?

Mr. Pinard: I will send the hon. member a copy of my speech.

What I am saying to my hon. colleague—and I want to be serious with him because I think he was serious—is that what the Prime Minister said, and what we have been saying all the time, is that we certainly do think this is a very major and important debate, and as many members as possible should participate.

Mr. Nielsen: That is not what the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Pinard: Yes, that is what he said. The Prime Minister did not specify one particular stage. My hon. friends will understand that participation in a debate can mean during the committee stage or even at the third stage when this resolution will be back.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): What is the third stage?

Mr. Pinard: I would be glad to inform my hon. colleague of what is going on here. I thought he understood.

We are debating now a motion to refer the resolution to a committee. Once the committee receives the resolution, it will have a limited period of time in which to look at it, until December 9. The committee will then report to the House, and the House will then be in a position to look at the report of the committee which will deal exactly with the resolution.

An hon. Member: Will we debate it?

Mr. Pinard: That is exactly what is going on.

An hon. Member: And debate it?

Mr. Pinard: And debate the report of the committee, yes.

Mr. Kempling: The report, not the resolution?

Mr. Pinard: The report will deal with the resolution. It will not talk about the World Series.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): No tricks?

Mr. Cousineau: You are filibustering.

Mr. Pinard: I am trying to explain what seems to me very obvious. When a committee reports to the House, what is considered by the House is the report of the committee. We do not intend at the time to deal with anything else but the report related to the resolution which is pertinent to the constitution. I think my colleague knows about that. If he wants us to talk about anything else, he had better tell us. What I am saying to him is that the House will have full opportunity at the third stage which I have just described to speak on the resolution which will be dealt with in the report of the committee.

● (1550)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pinard: I suggest hon. members ask their House leader, who is very knowledgeable and who will be able to provide them with further details. I do not wish to take up the whole time of the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pinard: We like to talk about the constitution.

An hon. Member: Filibuster.

Mr. Pinard: That is my answer to the first point raised by the House leader of the Tory party.

On the second point, I do not know if I should answer a question which I consider to be a prolongation of the debate which the hon. member started with Madam Speaker after she had decided to take some questions of privilege under consideration. I certainly do not intend to tell the Minister of Justice what to do. I think he answered the questions today very well. What he is doing, I think, is right. There is absolutely no breach of privilege of any sort in the way he is acting, and in a few moments I will be delighted to table the many, many polls that have been taken in the last 18 months.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), if I understand him correctly, has made it clear that if there is House time between the point when the debate on the present motion has concluded and the budget is to begin, that intervening time will be used to deal with Bill C-42, Bill C-43, and the report stage and third reading of Bill C-6. Can he tell us in which order those three bills will be dealt with, if there is a gap between the consideration of this resolution and the budget?

In connection with the budget, may I remind the government House leader that yesterday his colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), in reply to a question about the budget said:

I will attempt to do that after I have had a chance to confer with my colleagues tomorrow.

Well, that tomorrow is today. The Minister of Finance has left. Is the President of the Privy Council in a position to tell us what the date of the budget is to be?

Mr. Pinard: May I say in reply to the second part of the question that, yes, "tomorrow" is today, but it is not yet over so I am not in a position to provide any indication on this. I had expected that perhaps a question would have been put to the minister today. Obviously the hon. member had no question on the matter, and I cannot answer in the minister's name at this stage.

With regard to the first part of the question as to the order in which we would like to deal with the three bills I had mentioned, it all depends on the length of the gap. If it is a long gap—and I understand the NDP would like to see this resolution go to the committee as soon as possible because they