

If we are to change the Standing Orders and make it necessary to have a motion put, then we should have that discussion at another time. It may well be that we in this party would want to have a motion in future which ties down the allotted day and which sets out quite clearly by motion of the House that a particular day has been agreed upon as an allotted day and therefore is to stand subject only to any amendment which may subsequently be offered and accepted by the House. But this would be a departure from the practice we have used up to this point.

May I call it one o'clock?

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**Mr. Deans:** Madam Speaker, I will not be too long, I just want to finalize the remarks I began to make just before we broke for lunch.

As I see it what you have before you, Madam Speaker, are two questions. One is whether or not the text of a proposed motion to be dealt with on an allotted day should appear on the Order Paper and Notices. I think there is sufficient argument before you now to enable you to make a decision on that without too much difficulty.

The second question is probably more important, both in terms of the immediate problem which has confronted us over the past two days, but also in terms of how we might deal with matters such as this in the future. I think it requires a considerable amount of thought. I know you will do that, and I hope other members will do likewise because this question is of vital importance.

As I see it, having thought about the matter over lunch, the question is whether an allotted day is in fact government business and therefore subject to the normal ordering of government business within the latitude given to the House leader for the government or whether the House leader has to deal technically in a different way with the calling of House business for an allotted day than he would for any other day.

I would submit there is no question that an allotted day is different from a normal government business day. The primary difference is the difference which my colleague, the hon. member for Yukon indicated, about which he was questioned by you. In other words, the difference is simply that an opposition member on that particular day is given the primary responsibility for moving a motion, but on all other counts the day remains a government day.

I want to say to you that what my wishes might be are of little consequence. How I might like it to be does not matter

very much. It is how it is that makes the difference in a situation such as this, and whether we want to change it.

It is quite clear, if one looks at issues of Order Paper and Notices going back as far as one might want to look, that even an allotted day appears under government orders. I would suggest, by virtue of that and given the references in Beauchesne to allotted days—albeit allotted days are referred to in the technical sense as a government order—it would appear historically that they have been treated as a government order for the purpose of ordering business of the House. Therefore, it must be decided whether the government has to do anything specific in order to change the government orders.

I looked very carefully at that over lunch and I came to the conclusion that, although I would prefer the government being required to move motions to alter the orders of the day as it would want to alter them from time to time—and I want to differentiate between orders of the day as they are set out in the Standing Orders and the orders to be called within any specific order—by virtue of that fact, orders to be called within any specific order are at the discretion of the government House leader and that the government House leader may, if he wishes, or may not if he so desires, call any order that appears legitimately on the Order Paper and Notices.

Therefore, I come to the conclusion somewhat reluctantly that the method of determining whether an allotted day would be called or set off to another time remains within the purview of the government House leader.

• (1410)

What does not remain within the purview of the government House leader is whether there will be allotted days. That is quite clear. It is set out in the Standing Orders that there will be a certain number of allotted days to be called during a specific period of the sittings of the House, and that can be altered only with unanimous consent.

So I suggest that on the one hand we have it quite clearly before us that allotted days in the specified number must be made available to the opposition, but the determination of which days will be allotted remains the purview of the government. If it is to be considered that the allocation of that allotted day is government business, then the government House leader can either call that on the day he designates or he can change the day. In this instance I think he chose the latter, for whatever reason, and however much I would like to argue he cannot, I think he can and I know he did.

Therefore, I submit that on the first question, yes, I agree wholeheartedly with the House leader for the official opposition, the motion should have appeared with the one caveat mentioned earlier, that is, whether or not the dating of the motion is to be given consideration. I would urge that it not be found to be of importance in terms of whether the motion should appear on the Order Paper, but by the same token I would argue that for the balance, undesirable though the procedure might be, it would appear to me to be consistent with practice and with the laws as they pertain to the running of Parliament.