

Business of the House

While I am grateful to the leader of the house for the consideration that has been shown with respect to the business for tomorrow, I think it would be extremely helpful to us if we could have the same consideration concerning item No. 8 on today's order paper for tomorrow because I am informed by the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet (Mr. Lesage), who has a distinct interest in this matter, that he is going to be tied up all day. That statement goes for the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill) also.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, we have met all the wishes that were expressed by the official opposition last week. My hon. friend will have noticed, in quoting what the Prime Minister said, that the Prime Minister referred to contentious matters.

This is a measure which all the members of the official opposition have said they are supporting. I do not know why they should now ask that this should not be taken up tomorrow. We have made Wednesday's arrangements particularly to meet the wishes of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate (Mr. Pickersgill), and surely the convention can spare the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet (Mr. Lesage) for a short time tomorrow afternoon. I am sorry, but I cannot agree to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Laurier.

Mr. Chevrier: The leader of the house refers to having met all our requests. May I draw to his attention that we made no request, as he knows, in connection with the convention as a whole. We were careful not to make any requests at all in that regard. But once it had been decided that the house would adjourn on Wednesday at six o'clock so that we would have all day Thursday free, there was a suggestion, which came from me, that we should take up the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration on Wednesday. That was accepted, and I am grateful to the leader of

the house, but it would be a matter of great convenience to us if the other item could be left until a later date. I say that not because we want to retard the passage of this measure—in fact, we would be prepared to give it second reading now if that had the consent of the other groups so that in committee any hon. members who might wish to discuss this question would have that opportunity. So I think we are going more than half way in an attempt to assist the government to get its legislation through.

Mr. Green: If I were to accede to the hon. member's request, this legislation might not be able to go through until next week. I am very sorry, but I cannot do that. After all, this is legislation which everybody has approved, and I do not see that the Liberal convention is going to suffer irreparable damage if the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet is here for an hour or two tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Pickersgill: I might point out that the hon. member for Montmagny-L'Islet is by no means the only member who wishes to participate in the proceedings at the committee stage. I think every Liberal member from Newfoundland would like to do so. If this is the final word of the government, we have to accept it, but I think in view of what the Prime Minister said it will be viewed very badly by the public.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I wonder whether the leader of the house, in line with the best traditions of leaders of the house, can tell us what the business will be on Friday and Saturday of this week?

Mr. Green: No, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot give that information.

Mr. Pickersgill: The sooner we get Walter Harris back here the better.

At five minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.