

Mr. Speaker: We all know that sometimes answers, and sometimes questions, are confusing and that leads to remarks that would not otherwise be used.

I want to say to the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap, the House Leader of his Party, that I appreciate his comments. I wish to put on the record that the Hon. Member has given the Chair very good co-operation at all times, and I thank him.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions among the Parties, and there are one or two things I would like to deal with in my comments, so I will go slowly.

First, there have been discussions among the Parties and we have agreed to a change in the order adopted with respect to the business of the House. This afternoon, under Orders of the Day, the Government will call Bill C-143, which is known as the Substance Abuse Centre Bill.

The intention of all Parties is that this Bill will be disposed of this afternoon rather quickly. There will be a change made during the debate on the Bill by the Parliamentary Secretary to change the motion which currently reads to move it to a legislative committee. The motion will change that to move it to a Committee of the Whole House and through Committee of the Whole House, report stage, and third reading today.

We will then proceed with Bill C-114 until six o'clock p.m., at which time we will call the third reading vote and votes on Bill C-130, the free trade Bill.

There has been agreement among the Parties that tomorrow the business of the House will be followed as though it were a Friday. The House will commence at 10 o'clock a.m. with Orders of the Day for the continuation of Bill C-114. The debate on Bill C-114 will be completed at or before 11 o'clock a.m. There will be no further business called by the Government until 11 o'clock a.m., at which time the House will proceed to the normal Statements by Members and Question Period. After Question Period there will be the normal Routine Proceedings. Immediately after Routine Proceedings are finished, which will give Members an opportunity to present petitions, or whatever, the House will adjourn until 11 a.m., September 13, 1988.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. In order that the public can understand, on the basis that this House can do anything, if there is unanimity, tomorrow will be Friday. Is there agreement?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADIAN CENTRE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Friday, August 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Epp (Provencher) that Bill C-143, an Act

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse Act

to establish the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is my understanding that there have been consultations with the three Parties that the motion be amended to read "to a Committee of the Whole House" instead of "to a legislative committee", and that would be done on the understanding that the Bill would proceed through the rest of today in all stages without further debate. That is my understanding, and I would like it confirmed. If it is the will of the House to do that unanimately, then I think we could deal with it in that fashion.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville (Mr. McCurdy) has some time left in his second reading speech. He wishes to put a number of concerns that he has on the record. Following that, we would move to Committee of the Whole and proceed expeditiously without any further debate until the Bill is passed.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. House Leader has put the situation accurately. The Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed the case that on August 19 the New Democratic Party Members of this House wished to expedite and facilitate passage of this Bill. Indeed, the Bill would have been passed through all stages that afternoon, except the spokesperson for the Official Opposition chose not to address herself to the contents of the Bill, which are perfectly consistent with the report of the House Committee on Health and Welfare entitled: *Booze, Pills & Dope*, which recommended the creation of such a centre. There could be no question of opposition to it.

Before my intervention was interrupted on August 19, we indicated that while we were sorry that 29 of our 31 recommendations were either neglected or rejected, that did not constitute a reasonable basis for putting impediments in the way of the quickest possible passage of Bill C-143. I can assure you, Madam Speaker, that this afternoon this Party will co-operate in ensuring that the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse will be implemented through the passage of Bill C-143.

In respect to my intervention during the previous portion of my speech, one of the dramatic findings of our committee was that there was not in fact a drug epidemic in this country which, to those of us who are trained in the field, constitutes an explosive incidence of a disease within a population. Rather, what is at issue is an endemic situation where a large percentage, or a significant percentage of the population is affected by a condition which we are quick to emphasize was not a condition of the abuse of illegal drugs to nearly as great an extent as the abuse of legal drugs, such as alcohol, prescription drugs, and substances which, although not considered to be drugs are abused as drugs, such as glue and propane.