

Criminal Code

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the House agree to call it one o'clock?

The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) on a point of order.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that we could go on to other things, but I have a suggestion to make. Since consideration of Bill C-42 went very quickly and since tomorrow, June 24, is the national holiday of French Canadians, and to enable hon. members who live far away to get to the celebrations tomorrow somewhat refreshed after having rested a bit, I suggest that the House adjourn now until Monday afternoon at two o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The intention of the hon. member is very valid. He has moved a motion in good faith which is certainly appreciated by everyone, but this motion is not quite regular. First of all, there is no one to second it. Perhaps hon. members can think about this during the lunch break because the motion of the hon. member is related to certain conditions. He made a few comments, but he could have simply suggested the adjournment of the debate, and then, the House could have met in an hour and hon. members could have been called in for a vote. I believe this would meet the same objective. There could be consultation during the lunch break.

Mr. Ian Watson (Laprairie): I am prepared to second the motion of the hon. member for Bellechasse.

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I believe that when we come back at two o'clock for the report stage of the bill on the Export Development Corporation, we could consider the possibility of disposing very quickly of that bill, and if we can do so, we could leave much earlier than usual this afternoon. I would personally favour this procedure.

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, indeed I believe it would be acceptable to us if we were to consult the House leaders and use the next hour to discuss the possibility of acceding to the wishes of the spokesman for the Social Credit Party of Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In view of all this show of good will, I am sure that hon. members will allow me to leave the chair and call it one o'clock. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

[*Translation*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY

Mr. Pinard: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council on a point of order.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with respect to the business of the House today, June 23.

Although Standing Order 2(3) of the House provides that the House shall not sit on New Year's Day, Good Friday, and so on, and Saint-Jean-Baptiste day is also in there, although that part of Standing Order 2 does not specify the day on which Saint-Jean-Baptiste day is to be celebrated but rather Saint-Jean-Baptiste day itself, which is tomorrow, June 24, and I know that our hon. colleague from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) participated in the drafting of that order and the interpretation that must be given is that indeed the House is not required to sit only on Saint-Jean-Baptiste day, and not the day before that, in spite of that standing order, Mr. Speaker, in the present circumstance I suggest that we in Canada urgently need to change our attitudes and take every available opportunity to show that we have that great state of mind that is required to promote a true coexistence of our two major French-speaking and English-speaking communities in an atmosphere of mutual generosity and full equality. I believe that to underscore the anniversary of all French Canadians by giving unanimous consent to adjourn the House at this time of the day would really be showing a favourable attitude toward that true coexistence that is desirable in Canada.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps a happy coincidence that this morning all parties co-operated to give third reading to a bill to allow Canadians to be tried in their language all across Canada. On the eve of the anniversary of French Canadians I think it is a fortunate coincidence and I think the event should be celebrated by allowing all members present here this afternoon at two o'clock to give their unanimous consent to adjourn the House until next Monday and pay tribute in this way to all French Canadians. So I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to adjourn until next Monday, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great care and, indeed, with great sympathy to the words of the parliamentary secretary. Although the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and I have some doubts as to the interpretation of the standing order, one which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre participated in drafting, I want to say I have no doubt at all that the hon. member did not participate in the drafting of the British North America Act.

An hon. Member: Prove it!