

[Translation]

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** I think that is strange. A short while ago, the minister came to my office and told me that there would be a vote tonight. I find it rather strange being told that there has been an understanding. I have not heard about that, and the minister came to my office a short while ago and told me that there was going to be a vote. This is why I am in favour of this vote tonight.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I will point out to the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) that he has a choice open to him. The House needs unanimous consent so that the vote may be deferred till tomorrow, after the oral question period, and as the Chair is not privy to these negotiations between party House leaders and since any member has the right to dissent, the unanimous consent of the House must be obtained before the House may make an order for the vote to be scheduled for tomorrow.

[English]

**Mr. Basford:** May I say to the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) that I did discuss this matter with him this afternoon before he made his speech and I thought I made it clear there would not be a division tonight—that the yeas and nays would be called but that the division would be taken tomorrow. That is the agreement I have been seeking to obtain all day—that after the debate had been concluded we would do the actual voting tomorrow. I apologize if I did not make this clear. I thought I had.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I think there was a misunderstanding, because when the minister came to talk to me, I did understand that he asked me if I was going to speak tonight. I said I would but that I would allow time for the taking of the vote tonight. Then he said to me: "Very well." I told him that immediately after I finished speaking, the vote could be held. I do not see what difference it makes whether the vote is taken tonight or tomorrow. I had understood correctly and I was indeed under the impression when I talked to him that the vote would be taken tonight, so I made arrangements accordingly.

[English]

**Mr. MacEachen:** Thank you.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There not being unanimous consent—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Basford:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member for Roberval indicated to me, when I explained that I thought the vote would be taken tomorrow, that it was immaterial to him whether it was taken tonight or tomorrow. I thought I had informed the hon. member earlier that it would be taken by agreement tomorrow. I know he was ready to have a vote this evening but other groups in the House preferred to

### *Criminal Code*

defer the voting until tomorrow. I would ask him, in line with our conversation, to agree to that course.

**Mr. Epp:** You Liberals blew it!

[Translation]

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I never said tonight or tomorrow. I said tonight when I spoke, because I had my reasons for wanting the vote to be taken tonight. That is why I did not want it postponed until tomorrow, because tomorrow there will be other business to be considered and we do not have enough members tonight to discuss the legislation that will be called after the vote. That is my reason for being honest with him.

**Mr. Blaker:** Do you agree that we adjourn until tomorrow?

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** Do I agree to adjourn until tomorrow? That is precisely the point. I am being asked if I agree to adjourn until tomorrow, and I cannot agree because we do not have enough members to proceed with the next legislation that will be called.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. If I understand correctly the hon. member for Roberval, since his party is not ready to proceed with the legislation to be called after the division, if it were not taken tonight but deferred until tomorrow, he would prefer the vote to be taken tonight, so that there will not be much time left, but enough to proceed with another bill and not necessarily to dispose of it.

● (2050)

[English]

There seems to be a misunderstanding. The hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier) insists that his party is not ready to proceed with other legislation, if the vote is postponed at this time, and unless there is some agreement by his party after the question being postponed, we would not proceed with other legislation. He is not ready to give unanimous consent. Unless someone finds an argument to get that consent, I will have to call in the members.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, if the vote is taken tomorrow, I do not mind, but let us call it ten o'clock immediately, so that we will not consider other bills after that.

**Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** I rise on a point of order. I should like to point out to the hon. member for Roberval, the constituency next to mine, that there appears to be a clear case of misunderstanding between the hon. member for Roberval and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford). I should like to add that the hon. member apparently fears that there will not be enough time or opportunity to debate the next bill, which is Bill C-60, the purpose of which is to create a constituency in northern Ontario. The hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) is certainly ready to deal with this question. If my hon. colleague from Roberval would agree to have the vote postponed until three o'clock or 3.15 tomorrow afternoon, Bill