

hands of Parliament itself. I think this is what we are trying to arrange.

I would just mention again, Mr. Speaker, that I would appreciate it if you could make a full report when your study has been completed, and all members of the House could perhaps then be aware of what you intend.

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the plans for this office to look after private members' business are well advanced. I do not know whether an actual date has been set, but I understand from the Clerk that the plans are well in hand and that they are going to proceed. Things should be dealt with through that office in the very near future.

There were representatives from all parties at the drawing of private members' bills. The Speaker was in the chair at the meeting, and all hon. members know that. It was done in a very straightforward manner and I do not think there was any complaint at all. As I recall, we spent about 45 minutes on a point brought forward by a member of the New Democratic Party regarding the procedure on the subject matter. Other than that, everything was done in a very straightforward manner. There were no complaints, and it has always been this way. I do not think there was any attempt on the part of anyone to interfere in the process. We welcome entirely this concept of an office to handle private members' business, and we look forward to the day it begins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I did not want to prolong the debate but I could have referred to the concern of other members. I remember when we had a debate in 1977, the then hon. member for Témiscamingue and the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) were also preoccupied with this problem. The establishment of the office is not meant for taking over what I am suggesting at this time; it is meant to help the Chair. It is needed more and more, if you consider a situation like the one we had at the beginning of the week on Bill C-217. About one minute before we went into private members' hour the Chair ended up with a bill which did not have a title that met the requirements of our Standing Orders. Sometimes the Holy Spirit works faster than others. That day things were not too bad, but we usually like to have advance notice in order to make a better judgment on the acceptability of the bill, or even to advise hon. members of improvements to it.

The remarks of all hon. members will be examined by the Chair and not only by me. I have had conversations on this matter with the government House leader, the House leader of the official opposition, with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), and with the Speaker.

I take the advice of the hon. member for Pontiac-Gatineau-Labelle (Mr. Lefebvre) not to do anything in a hurry and not to ask for a decision from the House without putting on paper some kind of document on what could be suggested.

First, however, we have to lay down properly not only the structure of the office for private members' business, that I referred to, but also the responsibility of the Assistant Clerk who will have full control of that office and the kind of services

that can be offered to members. After that, we can tackle the other problem and include it in that paper. It will then be left to hon. members to indicate whether they want us to pursue our research in order to give better service to the House and to all hon. members.

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, may we then have unanimous consent to deal with the bill of the hon. member for Winnipeg Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie)?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to proceed with Bill C-214 and to stand, by unanimous consent, all the bills that precede Bill C-214?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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CONSUMER PRODUCTS WARRANTIES ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING STANDARDIZATION OF WARRANTIES

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine) moved that Bill C-214, to amend the Combines Investigation Act to provide for the standardization of warranties and to define the minimum provisions thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is of any benefit to remind the general public that this debate is carried on so many times in private members' hour. I know the government has plans to strengthen the private members' hour and I hope those plans are put into effect shortly.

We have seen a classic example this afternoon of the determination of some people to destroy the private members' hour in every possible way they can devise. It does not matter to me whether I speak on my private member's bill today or on Monday or next Tuesday. I am quite sure that with the co-operation I have received from the different offices during the years, these things can be straightened out in a matter of hours through a visit to some official in the House and so not take up the time of private members' hour year after year after year.

It is the same member who raises these issues all the time. All the rest of us can work our motions, our production of papers and private members' bills, but the member for—

Mr. Lefebvre: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like the hon. member to be more specific about who he is referring to.

Mr. McKenzie: It is the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert). He has raised this matter time and time again. He has been in the government for a long time so I do not know why he cannot work with his colleagues to get these problems straightened out.