

Mr. Taylor: Look who is calling the kettle black.

Mr. Deans: They are constantly on the side of the Government. As I said to Your Honour, I appreciate the chance to set the record straight. I say to the Conservatives: repent, repent.

Mr. Taylor: You are crooked enough.

Mr. Deans: You have problems ahead.

Mr. Taylor: So have you, brother, so have you.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard), on a point of order.

Mr. Pinard: No, Mr. Speaker, I am rising to take part in the debate. But first, I do have a short point of order. I would like to designate tomorrow as an opposition day, provided we vote before the end of this day on the motion now being debated. It seems that will be the case, so I wish to confirm to my colleagues that tomorrow will be an opposition day.

Now, I would like to take part in the debate on the motion. I had not intended to until I heard—

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: Forgive me for interrupting. Would the Government House Leader simply extend this point of order so that we will not have to entertain the process after the vote tonight and tell us what the business of the House will be for next week?

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Pinard: With regard to the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I want to confirm that, provided we vote tonight on this motion, it looks as though tomorrow will most likely be an Opposition day. On Monday we will be dealing with the report stage of Bill C-133.

Mr. Deans: Shame.

Mr. Pinard: On Tuesday we will be dealing with the third reading stage of Bill C-133. Wednesday has been reserved for Private Members' Business and Thursday next will most likely be another Opposition day. All of this is subject to change with reasonable notice to my colleagues, but that will most likely be the business from now until next Thursday.

I have received a request from my hon. colleague, and I think he wants me to address it, not to sit on Friday next for obvious reasons. His caucus must go to Winnipeg. Certainly, we on the Government side are willing to extend the usual courtesy of allowing a political Party to attend a democratic convention. Therefore, we are willing not to sit on Friday, January 28, and we will support any House order to that effect.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Is the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) rising on the same point of order?

Business of the House

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I understand that it will require unanimous consent not to sit on Friday next, and I would like to reserve decision overnight in order to discuss the problem which confronts us with my colleagues, concerning whether it is better to have the Tories here or away.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: I would be happy to seek advice on the matter and report to the House tomorrow.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that this intervention is not eating into the time of the Government House leader in the debate, but I can assure the Acting House leader for the New Democratic Party that the Government House leader is acting purely within tradition when he accedes to the request I have made of him. May I say to him that should his Party wish, at any time in the future, to proceed to a place outside of Ottawa for the same purposes we are proceeding to Winnipeg, we would be more than pleased to give that Party our consent to its absence for five days or whatever number of days its Members might wish to have.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: We, of course, are not likely to want to deprive the Hon. Member for Yukon of our presence here since the Conservatives seem to flounder so when we are not here. However, I do want to remind him that the last convention for the NDP was in Vancouver, and the House sat. We asked, I might point out, that it not sit, but it did. It was pointed out to us that it is not a tradition for the House to adjourn for political conventions. In fact I was curious about it when the Liberal convention was held in Ottawa, and they pointed out that the House sat. I can assure the Hon. Member for Yukon that in our normal generous way, and in our normal cooperative way, we will give grave consideration to this matter overnight. I can assure him that whatever decision we come to we will relay it to him as early as we possibly can.

● (1730)

Mr. Kilgour: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I understood the Acting House leader for the New Democratic Party to say in effect that this House sat on the July 1 weekend two summers ago when his Party was having its biennial meeting. Did I understand him correctly, or did he just tell the House now that the House was sitting on one of the days his Party was meeting? It is my understanding that if it was a Friday that was involved, the House was not sitting on that day, and I think he would wish to clarify his statement to the House on that basis.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Is the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain rising on the same point of order?