

Standing Orders 31 and 32 provide that an order of precedence will be established at the beginning of a session. This has been done. Standing Order 37 provides for suspension of Private Members' Business until the order of precedence is established. This also has been done. Section 39 provides that Members shall have no less than 24 hours' notice of items to be considered during the hour provided for discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to that, to the matter of those 24 hours especially.

Private Members' items of business have been dated. Each item bears a date. Mine reads, Thursday, April 24, 1986, C-203, and you can read in the Order Paper the dates concerning the various Private Members' items.

There lies the problem. If a Member, Mr. Speaker, cannot be in his place when the legislation is called, if a Member is prevented on serious grounds, whether because of illness or some other ailment, or for personal reasons from being here, what happens to his bill? What happens to that specific motion or bill?

Second, Mr. Speaker, because this is a matter that is somewhat vague in the Standing Orders, precedence given to Private Members' Business already has been established. When a Member is prevented from being here on the day his bill or motion is called, is that bill or motion sent back to the bottom of the list? I would appreciate it if the Chair would inform this House as to what happens to that motion because in the past, the item was unanimously suspended, and was returned to when the Member was back in the House. I understand this will no longer apply as of now, and we might have to innovate and find some other procedure.

My two questions are simple, Mr. Speaker. What happens to a bill or motion that has been dated, and as an example, we have for tomorrow, in the name of Dr. Isabelle, Bill C-208, Private Members' Bill, second reading and reference to a legislative committee of an Act respecting the International Airport at Ottawa.

As Party Whip, Mr. Speaker, I happen to know that the Hon. Member for Hull—Aylmer (Mr. Isabelle) will be unable to attend the House tomorrow.

So on his behalf I would like to ask you what can be done. With unanimous consent, can a Member introduce the Bill for him, or is there some other procedure? Perhaps you might enlighten us, Mr. Speaker?

[*English*]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I will be brief because I know there are Members who want to speak during this hour devoted to private Members' debate. I would not want to abuse the time. The Hon. Member raises an interesting point. It is something that we would want to take under advisement.

We had a House Leaders' meeting at three o'clock and if we had known there was discussion taking place, this could have been a matter for the House Leaders. Since it is a matter of

Private Members' Business

procedure, we would certainly have included this in the agenda.

We would like to consider the matter, and would respectfully request that it be put over until tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ouellet: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to seek your advice on this question. I would suggest it is a matter that should be decided by the Chair rather than by the House Leaders, for it really has to do with the time allocated for parliamentary debate on Private Members' Business. This time therefore is not available to the Government, but to all private Members, be they on the Government or the Opposition benches.

Now then, there is something new on the Order Paper for today, April 24, 1986, to the extent that for the first time we assign one day each to these Bills or motions, so that the 20 measures which have been selected at random have now been given dates which appear on today's Order Paper. We have a very specific calendar for the 20 measures, the last one being that which would normally be considered on Thursday, May 29, 1986, the motion of the NDP Member—I am trying to find the name of his riding—for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo).

Therefore, for the 10 bills or motions, we now have an assigned date. I have had the honour to sit on the committee chaired by our colleague the Hon. Member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling) which has recommended that some items be votable. But that committee wondered what would happen if a motion were called without its sponsor being present. Obviously, this timetable seems to be a rather definite order of the House. But we know that we must take into account a variable, namely the possibility that the Government House Leader might designate an opposition day. We know that on allotted days, there is no hour provided for the consideration of Private Members' Bills.

Unless we can obtain from the Government the assurance that it will not designate these days provided for consideration of private members' business as allotted days, the schedule could no longer work.

Mr. Speaker, it's a rather important problem which I submit to you and I should like you to enlighten us, because it would mean that an Hon. Member, let us say our colleague the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) whose Bill is supposed to be dealt with on May 2, assuming that the Government House Leader decided to designate May 2 as an allotted day, it is clear that on that day the Hon. Member for Burnaby could not deal with his Bill. Does that mean that he would lose his turn? Or is it merely postponed until the next time? Or would a notice have to be given to all Hon. Members to have a completely new schedule? That's the problem I wanted to point out to you.

It is clear that the Members of the committee chaired by the Hon. Member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling) could not have settled this point, and we should like you to enlighten us concerning the procedure to be followed, because if the sponsor