When the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) first raised his point of order, his main concern was the fact that, on the other hand, some hon. members were abusing the possibility of having their orders stood. We have two extremes in this case, and I suppose the solution must be somewhere in between.

I think the point raised by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) is very valid, in the sense that what has developed over recent years has been for the convenience of members, and it would be regrettable if we were to apply the Standing Orders strictly, although there seems to be some contradiction between Standing Order 49(1) and Standing Order 19(1). I am not sure that the remarks of hon. members have brought a clear perspective to the Chair.

I am still very concerned about Standing Order 19(1) and its possible limitation. I am still asking myself about the phrase "at the request of the government". Is it a request to the House by the government, or is it a right of the government to stand any kind of order, or even a motion?

I am concerned about these questions. I will do some reading. I might have to invite the House leaders of the parties into my office, where we might have a further discussion on this question before I make a decision.

I have some alternatives in mind which could be considered. Is the fact that the government has been co-ordinating this recent procedure which has developed, bringing about some suspicion? Would there be a valid objective in suggesting that such programming of private members' business ought to come under the Deputy Speakership or the Chair in general? Should there be some kind of co-ordination by the Chair or Deputy Speaker who officiates at the drawing of the order of business for private members at the beginning of the session? I shall keep all these concerns in mind, and I am sure that tonight's discussion will help all of us find a long-term solution to the problem.

● (2247)

In the meantime I shall look at the Standing Orders and precedents, and may arrive at a ruling that would not limit the operation of private members' hour and would satisfy hon. members in giving some interpretation of these contradictions, if I can use these words.

I thank hon. members, and I feel that by this time the hour appointed for the consideration of private members' hour has expired. This House stands adjourned until two o'clock tomorrow.

At 10.49 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to special order.