

Veterans Affairs

setting aside by unanimous consent. No matter what objection there was, time after time the Chair heard the House say "Agreed." We are unanimous in supporting this bill. We are unanimously pleased that in a moment it will be passed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if it would be appropriate now to call it one o'clock and proceed directly with the next order of business at two o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that we call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 12.51 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate, but I suppose we will have to wait a few moments because there is no one here who can move the next order of government business.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Shefford on a point of order.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, since we cannot proceed with the consideration of the next legislation, maybe with the unanimous consent of the House we could resume the debate on Bill C-83, for I would be ready to speak now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. parliamentary secretary on a point of order.

Mr. Trudel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. We are ready to proceed with the order established among the various leaders of the House, namely the consideration of Bill S-32. As soon as I have the permission to speak, I will give my remarks to the House.

[*English*]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I can understand the embarrassment of the parliamentary secretary. There is no one here to move the order of business on which he proposes to speak. But we have to observe the rules of the House and it is necessary for two ministers to be here. Perhaps the government whip could be prevailed upon to go up to the dining-room to get one.

Mr. Breau: It seems we will have to wait for the minister. I believe a resolution would be needed to change the orders of the day.

[*Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).*]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I was merely going to point out to the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) that we have one cabinet minister in his place, but we need two.

Mr. Breau: I know the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) does not like to waste any time. He might wish to use this interval as a grievance period.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I was thinking of moving that the House adjourn.

Mr. Poulin: I see that the official opposition has one member of its front bench here, and we have one cabinet minister. The other ministers are very busy conducting the affairs of the nation and looking after their departmental responsibilities.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): One of their responsibilities is to run the House.

Mr. Poulin: That is right. I think we should continue with this kind of agreeable comment. We are seated in a chamber which is within my riding, and it is pleasant to find this happy feeling prevailing. I see one member of the Creditiste party, and there are two members of the New Democratic Party—

An hon. Member: Why not recite the alphabet? We know you can count.

Mr. Poulin: That interjection made me lose my train of thought.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Of course, we normally take points of order in succession, but the point raised by the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) is so long that perhaps we can allow the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) to intervene.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I was proposing to put a question to the hon. member. He has spoken graciously of the good feeling which prevails here, but I should like to ask him whether he is inclined to take the action which seems to be called for, that is, to telephone to see whether he can find a couple of ministers.

Mr. Poulin: Yes, Mr. Speaker. But as I was saying, the ministers have varied responsibilities other than sitting in the House. There will be a minister here very shortly. They are attending to their departments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council whether he has any news. Otherwise, we shall have to adjourn the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blais: Might I just say, Mr. Speaker, that the troops have just come in.

An hon. Member: Only one.