

Business of the House

rectified. That has been taken away. The granting of money now has become a charade and a farce. Give us that power and we will then look at this bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Before recognizing the parliamentary secretary, I must advise hon. members that when he speaks he will close the debate on second reading.

Mr. Thomas H. Lefebvre (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I will only take a few minutes as I have already spoken in this debate. I listened to the speeches made on Bill C-10. By the number and the quality of the interventions by members of all parties, it is apparent there is agreement that we need the office of comptroller general of Canada. We may not agree on how this office should be set up or the methods and procedures that the person filling this office should follow. However, if this bill is adopted and sent to committee this afternoon, there will be further opportunity to debate these points. Hon. members will again be invited to state their points.

I trust the bill will receive speedy passage in committee and be returned to the House for third reading. The underlying principle is accepted by all members. This office has been needed for some time. We must now do everything possible to ensure that the person already appointed to the position is given the opportunity to get to work as soon as possible on behalf of the taxpayers of Canada.

Members of all parties have shown through their speeches that they are concerned about public spending. The government is showing its concern by the recent announcements of many changes being made in an attempt to bring under control more and more the spending of the Canadian government, especially so in bringing forward this bill.

● (1522)

I should like to thank hon. members who have participated in this debate, and do so on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) and myself.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to the next item of business and because, I believe, a change has been made in respect of the order of business for Monday, I wonder if the appropriate announcement could be made. In asking for that I hope my hon. friend,

[Mr. Baldwin.]

the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, will not mind if I put the question to the Acting Prime Minister. I do that quite frankly, sir, so I can establish the fact that the reason things are so peaceful and orderly here this afternoon is that the Minister of Communications is the Acting Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If we are obliged to have the Liberals in power it would be a lot better if she continued to be number one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his good words and his good wishes for my future, but I must remind him that I am not yet ready to assume such responsibilities; I am barely able to do so on an interim basis.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Why not!

Mrs. Sauvé: In reply to his question, we will consider Bill C-21 during the time left this afternoon. On Monday, if hon. members agree with me, we will proceed to Bill C-4 and Tuesday to Bill C-6, unless changes are made on Monday and that would be announced in the House.

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TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING TREATIES ON TRANSFER OF PERSONS
FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (for the Solicitor General) moved:

That Bill C-21, to implement treaties on the transfer of persons found guilty of criminal offences, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

[*English*]

Mr. Rod Blaker (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, for a moment I thought perhaps you were overcome by the friendliness being exhibited between the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and the Minister of Communications (Mrs. Sauvé), and that we would get Bill C-21 into committee without so much as a single speech. That would be marvellous and I would be agreeable.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): We wouldn't want to miss your speech.

An hon. Member: That left him speechless.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It's all right, it's Friday afternoon.