

happen so that we would only have the rest of today to call a meeting?

I asked the question simply because we were wondering about possibly having witnesses from Newfoundland. However, if the resolution might be called at the next sitting of the House, Thursday, then it would not be possible for us to have witnesses.

Mr. Lewis: If that were to happen, I would object to it. Obviously, this is done after consultation with House Leader in order to facilitate a committee hearing and the calling of witnesses if that is the wish of the committee.

The Government would not be proceeding in any way which would derogate from the committee's ability, if deemed desirable, to have witnesses and hold as many meetings as it wants.

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to have some clarification as to the Government's intent concerning the motion. Is the motion going to be passed? Is the Parliamentary Secretary saying that it will go to the committee, that the committee will hold its hearings, then it will come back to the House before it recesses for the summer? Is that what the Parliamentary Secretary is saying? This has come up in the House twice since 1971. It has to be passed.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) has some concerns about this.

Mr. Lewis: I wish to advise the Chair that we will not proceed with this motion.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair did not hear the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could stand this and return to it later this morning? I am sure that whatever misunderstandings there may be are inadvertent and could easily be clarified.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray). It was a suggestion I was hoping someone would make.

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COMMEMORATIVE STATUES

REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have a third motion which has been discussed among the Parties. I say to my hon. friend from the New Democratic Party that I discussed it with the Whip. This refers to what might be called the statue question.

I move:

Petitions

That the resolution adopted by the House on February 10, 1987, respecting the installation of a statue in honour of former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, and the document entitled "Report on Commemorative Statues to Canadian Prime Ministers and Commemoratives to other eminent Canadians", tabled in the House on Tuesday, February 10, 1987 (Sessional Paper No. 332-7/13), be referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

● (1120)

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that indeed there have been consultations. Our Party is very pleased with this initiative and we will certainly support it

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic caucus, we agree to this. We believe there really should be some comprehensive review by a standing committee on which significant Canadians will have statues placed in the parliamentary presence.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have the unanimous consent of the House to move his motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO RENTAL INCREASE FOR MAISON D'AMITIÉ

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House a petition from my constituents of Ottawa-Vanier who humbly state that according to a report made public by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, one woman out of eight will be the victim of psychological, economic, sexual or verbal violence from her spouse; that at a time when the Government should act rather than punish, the National Capital Commission intends to increase by more than \$3,000 a month the rent of the *Maison d'Amitié*, the only French-speaking and voluntary organization in the region to help women and children in distress; that the Prime Minister recently stated in the House in reply to a question which I asked him that the problem of women victims of violence is one of the gravest social and legal challenges of the *Maison d'Amitié* to take up; wherefore your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to direct the National Capital Commission to reconsider its decision to increase the rent and continue as in the past to charge a nominal fee of \$1.