

Standing Orders

our sense of participating in democracy and that one has a role to play.

I have intervened occasionally on the matter of Standing Order 9(4)(a), under which a Member who has the floor may rise and propose that the House do not adjourn at the normal time but continue beyond the normal adjournment hour to further consider a specified item of business or a stage or stages thereof. When a large number of committees are sitting, it is difficult also to have Members in the House during the last hour before adjournment to ensure that we have 25 Members to prevent abuse of the Standing Order. While I do not know the opinion of the House, I suggest that a percentage of the Members would be a better solution, so that possibly 10 per cent of our membership would be required in the House in order to prevent the Government using Standing Order 9(4)(a). If the same rule applied to the Government it too would have less difficulty in finding Members to prevent the Opposition from using Standing Order 9(4)(a). When we all agree to a motion under that Standing Order, there is no difficulty.

I see the Government House Leader in the House. I know he has something to say, but I want to tell him before I sit down that I feel this debate has been constructive. I think we are back to the spirit of the parliamentary committee and of Lefebvre and McGrath.

I believe that if we now have an agreement, it is as a result of compromise. I accept that, because that is what we are supposed to strive for and I am happy to see that my House Leader, the Government House Leader, and the House Leader of the New Democratic Party, have all come into the House. It indicates to me that we have come to a reasonable understanding and that they have possibly reached an amicable solution. I am pleased that we have reached some kind of understanding and I expect the Government House Leader to inform us about that.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) for his very kind words. He has clearly set the stage for what I am about to do.

As he inferred, once again the goodwill, the good nature and the interest of Parliament and furthering parliamentary democracy have prevailed. I am pleased to report to the House that we have reached an agreement on some outstanding issues.

As I indicated yesterday when I introduced the resolution, notwithstanding the fact that it was introduced in the name of the Government and that there were some outstanding issues, we did agree at that time to continue negotiations in an attempt to reach an agreement and resolution of the outstanding issues.

I think you will find the proposal that I have to be in order. In order to facilitate what we propose to do, it will be necessary for the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) to

withdraw his amendment. I presume that that can be done with the unanimous consent of the House. If we do so, then I can introduce an amendment which has been agreed to by the House Leaders of all Parties. If I could seek leave to do that, Mr. Speaker, I think we could move on with this and complete it.

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I have been informed by our Parliamentary House Leader that some useful discussions have taken place among the House leaders of the three political parties in the House and that amendments reflecting the interests of both the Government, the Opposition, and Members in general will be submitted to us for consideration by the Government House Leader. In the circumstances I shall of course be glad to withdraw my amendment.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) and all Members for their co-operation in this regard. I think I am now in a position to move the following amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) will need consent to move that motion. I take it that that consent is forthcoming?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the motion be amended as follows:

(1) by deleting the words "except Standing Order 4" in lines 10 and 11 of the motion, and by deleting the paragraph numbered 3;

(2) by deleting the proposed amendment to Standing Order 2(5)(a);

(3) by inserting the following new paragraph:

That Standing Order 9 (4)(b) be amended by deleting the words "twenty-five" and substituting therefor the word "fifteen".

(4) by deleting the proposed amendment to section 2 of Standing Order 55; and

(5) by inserting the following new paragraph:

That Standing Order 82(9) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

In each of the periods described in section (5) of this Standing Order, not more than four Opposition motions shall be motions that shall come to a vote. Of the 25 total Opposition motions, not more than eight shall come to a vote. The duration of proceedings on any such motion shall be stated in the notice relating to the appointing of an allotted day or days for those proceedings.

On the last day appointed for proceedings on a motion that shall come to a vote, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of daily adjournment, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put, without further debate or amendment, every question necessary to dispose of the said proceeding.

We did not get the percentage with respect to Standing Order 9(4)(b), but I think the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier will appreciate that concession. All of those are major