

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being five o'clock the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

It is my understanding that an agreement has been reached to proceed directly to motion No. 17 appearing in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott). The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis).

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, motion No. 4 stands in my name. It is substantially similar to one adopted by the House on December 13, 1977. That motion gave the joint committee 90 days to bring in a report. Forty-eight days have now elapsed, and it is my hope the committee can be named soon in order for it to proceed with its work. With the understanding there will be a naming of that committee this week, I would defer for the present to the agreements which have been worked out with the spokesmen of the various parties.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Of course the Chair can play no part in resolving the request of the hon. member. I cannot give that guarantee. All I can do is ask for unanimous consent to proceed with motion No. 17.

**Mr. Cafik:** Mr. Speaker, in respect to the matter raised by the hon. member, it was discussed with me just prior to this time. Arrangements will be made for instructions to be given to our whip to negotiate the members of that committee. Hopefully that will be done tomorrow or the next day in order to put the committee in place.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All being well, is there unanimous consent to suspend the consideration of motions Nos. 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, and to proceed directly to motion No. 17?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, while I do not object to unanimous consent, I should like to point out to the Chair that when the majority party needs unanimous consent from all parties to amend an order of the House the representatives of every party should in common decency be consulted. Mr. Speaker, I am the House Leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada and I have always showed understanding and co-operation with all other leaders. I was very surprised when I heard you say just now, Mr. Speaker, that there was unanimous consent, since we had heard nothing about this. I do not know if anyone doubts the existence of my party but I certainly am here as the member for Bellechasse.

I have very often been told that I do not need a microphone to be heard, that my voice is strong enough to reach every corner of the House. I wish to continue to be co-operative and understanding and to facilitate the business of the House. I also wish that when there are consultations, when the Presi-

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dent of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), the government House leader, wants to have serious talks with his counterparts, he would call us to his office. I understand that sometimes there have to be hasty consultations on the floor. I understand all that. After ten years in parliament there are certain things you know. You also learn not to let others pull a fast one on you, hoping that you will run for cover like a rabbit.

**Mr. Isabelle:** Babbitt.

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** My colleague, the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle), is trying to be funny. I said rabbit intentionally, Mr. Speaker, as I have seen a TV program in which the rabbit was always nosing around, always getting into trouble and always the loser. I do not want to be a rabbit and a loser.

I am willing to go along today with the proposals that have been made, but from now on I want everyone to be aware of our existence and when consultations to get unanimous consent to change the rules are held we should be consulted. I think we will be bright enough to understand that the request is justified and will agree to it. Then, agreement having been reached by the parties in this House, Mr. Speaker will not have to lie. He will be telling the truth.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I understand the hon. member's position, and perhaps I might say just a word. No one spoke to me specifically about what was to be done today. What has been happening in the past few weeks is that a list of the private members' business for the ensuing week has been passed around, and we all see it. When I have received that list, I take it for granted that if I do not object to it, in effect I have agreed to it. I suppose it was taken for granted, since there was no objection by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), that his party agreed as well. Even so, I think his point is well taken. It might be a good idea for the government members who make these arrangements not just to send the sheet around and assume that is the end of it, but actually they should speak to representatives of each of the parties.

**Mr. Ellis:** Mr. Speaker, the list referred to by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is posted on the bulletin boards in the lobbies. A close check of that list will indicate that there is an entirely different matter listed for this afternoon. That arrangement was made very late on Friday afternoon. Thus, the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott) has been asked to fill in at the very last minute, in fact approximately four parliamentary hours before this took place. I appreciate the consternation of the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), but the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton is quite prepared to fill in during the time remaining.

**Mr. Cafik:** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was not present in the Chamber for all of the remarks made by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert). In light of the comments made