

Order Paper Questions

Bills, that no government Notices of Motions will be introduced under Government Notices of Motions, and no government Member of Parliament will proceed with a concurrence motion.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the suggestion. There are certainly caveats there by which the Chair would obviously be bound. Is that acceptable?

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, the caveat that myself and the Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) put on unanimous consent is that there be no motion, but that we would automatically be on Petitions by unanimous consent. We do not want this motion adopted by the House because we believe that it sets a precedent for the very thing we have been arguing against for the last hour and a half.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Chair can settle that. I am not prepared to get into a procedural argument over the motion.

Let us put it this way, if it is acceptable to the government side, a suggestion has been made to revert. That is all it is. If there is the consent the House can do anything. It does not bind anyone procedurally, and it certainly does not bind me.

If it is the will of the House to revert to presenting petitions, I will simply clean up the business of Questions on the Order Paper and we will revert.

I can assure you that under no circumstances will this be taken as a precedent which would create any of the difficulties suggested by the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy) and the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, I think the concern on this side is that the Parliamentary Secretary is seeking to move halfway back up the daily routine order of business from where he actually wanted to be. He is seeking to do that by way of motion. We are saying that if he is seeking unanimous consent of the House to do that, then such unanimous consent will be granted. The point is that we do not want the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to proceed in this way by motion, because by moving halfway up the Order Paper by a motion he is doing exactly what he was trying to do by moving to the very bottom. That is what we object to.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary has put the point and that is why the Chair is suggesting that if the House wishes to revert back, as a consequence of arrangements between both sides, the Chair is quite prepared to do that. If it is a question of having to argue whether or not a motion under these circumstances is appropriate at this time, the Chair is not prepared to enter into that because I already have a serious matter to decide.

Perhaps both sides can settle this, because we are running out of time anyway.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, since there does not seem to be unanimous consent to what we thought was an honourable

suggestion, I suggest that we proceed with Orders of the Day, which is the next item on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair nearly worked out a solution. Perhaps that cannot always be done.

The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, Questions on the Order Paper. He has tabled the questions.

Mr. Gauthier: He could not have done that. We are not there yet.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I believe I have delivered them to the Table already.

Mr. Speaker: It is true that they have been delivered to the Table but the Chair wanted to make the position clear. Strictly speaking, the Parliamentary Secretary was not at that stage. In order to make it easy for the Chair, perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary could just rise and go through it again.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I, along with many of my colleagues, am just trying to follow exactly what is happening here. There was a motion which was debated for about an hour and a half. You have given us the undertaking that you will read the submissions and come tomorrow with a ruling. In my opinion, that motion was not put to the House. Therefore, I take it that it lapses at this time because nothing has happened to it. I submit that we cannot leave a motion to lapse like that, unless the Government wants to drop the motion that we proceed to Motions.

● (1240)

Mr. Speaker: I think I can clarify this. I am reserving on the motion of the Parliamentary Secretary this morning. We have heard argument and that argument is now over with. There has been some suggestion, which has not reached a point of consent, with respect to reverting back to Petitions. In the process there was perhaps some misunderstanding and no doubt it was the fault of the Chair. The Parliamentary Secretary did rise on the matter of Questions on the Order Paper, to which the Chair had indicated it would proceed after announcing it was reserving on the motion.

The position of the Chair is that we are at the point of Questions on the Order Paper. I want to ensure that matter is properly dealt with, and I invite the Parliamentary Secretary to rise on Questions on the Order Paper, and we will deal with that.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that the following questions will be