

*Routine Proceedings*

I would urge the minister not to proceed to force a nomination on the House, knowing in advance the position of the opposition parties, without at least the opportunity for the candidate to present himself to a parliamentary committee and to let us hear from him about his qualifications.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, these points of order are more in the form of representations to the government to put aside the procedures in the law for the appointment of these positions which call for a resolution of this House and resolution of the other followed by a Governor in Council appointment.

Mr. Speaker, I will allow questions, which seem to be behind this, to be debated during the debate period. At this point in time my response to the representations from the opposition parties is no, we intend to follow the procedure as laid out in the law. There will be ample opportunity because of parliamentary reform and the ability that committee and others have to call people forward to go on whatever which hunts members might want.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one or two comments. I find it shocking that the government House leader would use that kind of approach. Indeed, he is pre-empting debate on a very important matter, that is, our last allotted day in this period where we want to debate certain important matters such as finances, housing, and other very important financial questions.

I respect the decision the Chair made at 3 p.m. but it suited the government's purpose just beautifully, to move the motion at this time and then spare us the obligation to ask it to have the decency of referring this to a committee, which is a reasonable suggestion made by all parties on this side—the opposition parties in particular.

I think it would be in the interests of democracy and good debate that the whole issue be sent to a committee for study and consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have raised a matter under points of order which amount to a suggestion, or perhaps a complaint, to the government as to the procedure on which it has decided to use this afternoon.

Whatever merit lies in those suggestions, it is certainly a matter of legitimate discussion, I think it is really a matter of debate. I am bound with the rules as they are. It was pointed out by one hon. member that the government is proceeding strictly legally, although there is dispute within the Chamber as to whether it ought to be proceeding this way at this time.

But, the government has so chosen to proceed, and I must say that the procedure is in order. I will now recognize the hon. Minister of Justice for debate.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, I made my point, and I want to raise another point of order.

Today is the last allotted day in this period where the government has before us expenditure plans for the coming year. If we do not reach Orders of the Day, the government loses its day. If the government loses the day today, and loses the Estimates, I hope it does not come to us crying that it missed the boat on this one.

If the government cannot figure this out, I am telling you right now that we are going to debate this one until 10 p.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Kamloops, and then I want to come back to the hon. leader of the government.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I want to support the point just put forward by my hon. friend from Ottawa—Vanier.

This is the last allotted day, and as you see by the agenda it is a very full day. We have been looking forward to this day for some time.

The government has decided to proceed this way on an important motion, and we have a number of speakers who wish to speak to this appointment motion. I am seeking clarification.

If, in fact, we do not get to Government Orders because of our interest in speaking to this government motion, what happens to the final allotted day? Can you give some guidance on this, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** I may be able to give the hon. member some guidance. I would suggest that he speak to me in a few minutes.

Strictly speaking, the question is hypothetical, and I do not think it is appropriate for the Chair to rule on it. I would be very pleased to discuss the matter with the hon.