

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is agreed and so ordered.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, during the discussions that took place among the House leaders who had also consulted the various members who had taken an active part in this debate, we had an understanding that if the debate should conclude before closing time tonight no other business would be introduced.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Would the minister permit a point of order before he moves any motion?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The minister is quite correct that in our discussions it was agreed that if we concluded this matter before ten o'clock tonight, no other business would be put forward. But it was also discussed at our meeting that if there could be unanimous consent to dealing without debate with the finalization of Bill C-242, that would be a possibility. Bill C-242 is a private members' public bill having to do with the prohibition of smoking in certain vehicles of transport. I think I am stating the case correctly, that if there was to be any debate the government was not prepared to bring it forward, but if there was a possibility of completing the debate on third reading of that bill and passing it without further debate, this could be entertained.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. As the House will recall, there were two, or perhaps three occasions when the official opposition indicated that if this matter could be considered and called as a government order, we would be prepared to deal with it. This is still the situation. There was some question about it as private members' business, as I explained to the House on another occasion and to many people across the country. But as a government order we would be prepared to deal with it.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, so that the record is quite clear, I should like to say that I agree entirely with what has been said by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and by the House leader of the official opposition. However, at no time have I ever been given any understanding that if this motion were brought forward on any basis, it would be approved without debate. I was not able to get that assurance from either side.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Would the minister ask for it now?

Capital Punishment

Mr. Sharp: I was just going to say that if the House were disposed to approve Bill C-242 now without debate, we would have no objection.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Is it the intention of the government House leader to bring forward this bill now as a government bill? We have indicated on a number of occasions that we are quite prepared to do that, but we have explained the difference to members of the House and to others. The difference is well known to the government House leader and to others. If the government House leader is prepared to say that the bill will come forward as government business, we are prepared to deal with it. If it is private members' business, then the government House leader knows even better than I do that House leaders have no place messing about in private members' business. That has been a long-standing tradition of this House.

Mr. Sharp: It is not the intention of the government to bring forward a government bill to replace Bill C-242 which would have to go through all the stages. Therefore, I think this is a hypothetical case. I would, therefore, like to conclude the remarks which I began. It was agreed among us that apart from the question of Bill C-242 which was raised in the way it was, if we did conclude the debate on Bill C-84 there would be no other business introduced by the government.

● (1640)

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, if you would now call it ten o'clock there would certainly be no objection from this side.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear, with regard to Bill C-242, that if the government had been prepared to introduce it as a government measure this afternoon, we on this side of the House would have been prepared to complete it at all stages without debate.

Some hon. Members: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to call it ten o'clock and, I suppose, eliminate the adjournment debate, because I would think that no hon. member has received due notice?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being ten o'clock p.m., this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 4.42 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.