

*Government Orders*

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my hon. friend's comment. We also were concerned that the government intended to move, if not closure, then some form of closure. There are many ways and means of closing off debate.

I would like two clarifications. If there is an affirmative on both of these, I think there would be an inclination from all sides to dispense with further reading of the motion.

The questions are the following. I would like to ask my friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader to indicate clearly that the government does not plan to use any form of closure or time allocation to limit this debate.

Second, in the time remaining, I would hope that some time would be set aside to hear the point of order that I was planning to raise at three o'clock before we got into this process.

**Mr. Cooper:** First, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Chair would take into account the time that we have wasted this afternoon because of the hon. member's persistence when hearing any point of order he may or may not have.

Second, I am not sure what the hon. member means "by any form of closure" and I therefore want him to be more specific. Certainly we as a government have every right to keep all of our options open. I have indicated privately on more than one occasion to the hon. member it was not our intention to move notice of closure today and I indicated the same to the House leader of the Official Opposition.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, just to carry this a bit further with the parliamentary secretary who is I think trying to be accommodating here. Is he indicating to the House that he is not intending to proceed with time allocation or notice of closure on this particular motion which is before us?

• (1640)

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, as you know, we are always hesitant to enter into negotiations on the floor. We have had considerable negotiations in private, which have obviously broken down. I have indicated very clearly that it was not our intention to give notice of closure today.

What the government may want to do at some future date I am not in a position to predict. I can only say that

we have clearly seen an abuse of House time today and, as a result of that, the House has not been able to proceed with the legislation before it.

We were very clear that we had no intention of moving that notice today. We wanted to debate the issue and we are ready to debate the issue.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I think we are making progress. If the government House leader, who has now arrived, would indicate that the government does not plan to give notice of closure, to move time allocation or to extend the hours, we would be quite prepared to permit the motion to proceed without completing the reading.

I would like to hear some indication, as to whether you are prepared to entertain a few minutes of argument in terms of the inappropriateness of proceeding with this motion at all.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, I can certainly support what my parliamentary secretary said. I had no intention of bringing in closure at this point in time, as we have been discussing for upward of a year, but certainly more intensely lately. I did not expect unanimity in support of all elements of the package, but I did expect we would have a reasoned debate where points of view would be put forward and we would reach a decision by vote at an appropriate time.

That was the intent and that is the intent.

**Mr. Speaker:** It might be helpful if hon. members discuss the matter further. In the meantime, I take it that I do not have the consent of the New Democratic Party to dispense.

As a consequence, according to the rules, we shall have to proceed.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to have not made my point clear. I sought clarification that no notice of closure would be given today, and that there would be no steps toward time allocation or extending the hours, three simple requests.

If I may, I would like to be able to proceed with an argument on the inappropriateness of this particular motion before us.

**Mr. Speaker:** If I understand the hon. member for Kamloops correctly, he is saying that there is agreement and we shall dispense with the further reading. I shall hear the hon. member on his point of order.