

Abortion

among the Parties. I believe Your Honour would find agreement with the following consent order. I would say that some people have copies of this consent order since it was widely distributed. However, there is a change from what is in front of everybody which takes place in Clause 8.

I move:

That, notwithstanding the Standing Orders and usual practices of the House, the following procedures be in order with respect to proceedings on Government Business No. 36 (Motion respecting abortion):

1. Any Member may give notice of an amendment to the main motion by filing such notice with the Clerk no later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 1988;
2. The Speaker, in a manner similar to the practice at the report stage of Bills, will have power to select, group and determine the voting procedure for all such amendments, with his statement and ruling on such selection, grouping and voting (consistent with Part (8) of this Order) to be made to the House when the debate is first resumed on the main motion on Thursday, July 28, 1988;
3. No amendment or sub-amendment to the main motion will be receivable or in order during debate on government business No. 36 except as provided for in parts (1) and (2) of this order;
4. Debate on the main motion will be, following adoption of this order, the only order of business for the House today, until any Member present and wishing to speak in debate has spoken, after which time but no later than 6.00 a.m. Wednesday, July 27, 1988, the Speaker shall adjourn the debate and the House until 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 1988;
5. The provision of part (4) of this order shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, on Wednesday, July 27, 1988, at the end of which sitting the Speaker shall adjourn the debate and the House until 11 a.m., Thursday, July 28, 1988.
6. No Member who has spoken in debate on the main motion before the Speaker's statement and ruling (as per part (2) of this order) may speak again subsequently in debate;
7. Quorum may not be called during debate on government business No. 36, and no 10-minute periods of questions and comments will be provided for;

This clause is changed somewhat. It reads:

8. On Thursday, July 28, 1988, following the Speaker's statement and ruling, (pursuant to part (2) of this order), the House will suspend its sitting for one hour, when the Speaker shall put all questions necessary to dispose of every amendment selected according to the groupings and voting procedures set out in the Speaker's statement and ruling, and to dispose of the main motion, following which the House shall stand adjourned until 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 1988.

Provided

- (a) That, if necessary, at the request of the Government, Mr. Speaker shall fix a time for the purpose of the giving of Royal Assent to any Bills that have not been given Royal Assent;
- (b) That after the giving of Royal Assent to any such Bills, the House shall stand adjourned to the time and day stated in this order;
- (c) That during any such adjournment of the House, the provisions of Standing Orders 5 and 68(3) and (4) shall apply; and

That when the House returns on Wednesday, August 10, 1988, or at an earlier date, except for the giving of Royal Assent, as the case may be, the provisions of the order of the House adopted on Monday, June 20, 1988, shall apply.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the order. Is the House in agreement?

• (1510)

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the order accepted.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ABORTION**PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION**

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Supreme Court of Canada having declared that the provisions of the Criminal Code relating to abortion are inconsistent with the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and are therefore of no force or effect, the government should prepare and introduce legislation, consistent with the Constitution of Canada, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which reflects the fundamental value and inherent dignity of each human being and the inherent worth of human life, and which achieves a balance between the right of a woman to liberty and security of her person and the responsibility of society to protect the unborn; and

Such legislation should prohibit the performance of an abortion, subject to the following exceptions:

When, during the earlier stages of pregnancy: a qualified medical practitioner is of the opinion that the continuation of the pregnancy of a woman would, or would be likely to, threaten her physical or mental well-being; when the woman in consultation with a qualified medical practitioner decides to terminate her pregnancy; and when the termination is performed by a qualified medical practitioner; and

When, during the subsequent stages of pregnancy: the termination of the pregnancy satisfies further conditions, including a condition that after a certain point in time, the termination would only be permitted where, in the opinion of two qualified medical practitioners, the continuation of the pregnancy would, or would be likely to, endanger the woman's life or seriously endanger her health.

Mr. Speaker: Before commencing debate, and I will recognize the Hon. Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) in a moment, I believe that it is appropriate for the Chair to make the following comments. First, I want to reiterate that I have not only listened very carefully to the motion, but have given it as much careful consideration as I can in the few minutes available to me. I also want to say that the motion has been adopted by the House by consent.

As your humble servant, I am charged with doing everything that I can to make sure that the consent of the House is adhered to. However, I do point out that it is an unusual order, and I know that all Hon. Members, on the government side, in the Official Opposition, and in the New Democratic Party, will co-operate with the Speaker if, during the process of this debate I may have to call upon the House Leaders, at least under some circumstances, possibly to give the Chair some further guidance. I am quite sure that, in view of the consent that we have received in the House, the Speaker will be able to take us through this debate. If I need some help, I will be very quick to call for it.