

Adjournment on Completion of Business

Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) and the hon. Member of the Administration (Mr. Mackasey) have spoken very strongly in favour of Bill No. C-186.

Moreover, on several occasions, we asked the right hon. Prime Minister if he would take the necessary steps for this bill to be passed during the present session, and he always seemed to be very much in favour of the idea that Bill No. C-186 should be passed during this session.

Now, if the government took the trouble to create a special cabinet committee if three ministers and the right hon. Prime Minister are directly interested in having Bill No. C-186 passed as soon as possible, I feel that, under those circumstances, not only should Bill No. C-190, which I strongly support, be included in the legislation to be passed before adjournment, but also Bill No. C-186 which I favour even more.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are ready to consider the motion for second reading of this bill. By the way, yesterday, the chairman of the committee on labour and employment asked for the unanimous consent of the house in order that the committee might sit during the sittings of the house yesterday in order to prepare its report. We gave that unanimous consent. The committee sat yesterday. I think it is now ready to present its report on Bill No. C-186 which I think could be passed very quickly.

If the government is willing to co-operate and accept the suggestion that the two bills, Nos. C-190 and C-186, be passed before the house adjourns, all the members of the opposition will then show much greater co-operation with regard to the speedy passage of the supplementary estimates and interim supplies which the government is asking.

Therefore, I appeal to the spirit of co-operation of the government house leader. If he is willing, to proceed with those two bills which, as stated earlier by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, have been introduced and endorsed by the government, we are ready to co-operate fully for the passage of the supplementary estimates, interim supply and the two bills I have just mentioned, namely Bills Nos. C-190 and C-186.

A good impulse on the part of the government leader will be followed by the full co-operation of the opposition; in fact, we can probably complete our business even more quickly, with the government's co-operation.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

[English]

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I think it will be generally accepted that I do not take up the time of the house too often, or for too long a period of time when I do. I am wondering whether it is possible for the Minister of National Health and Welfare to aid me in this pursuit of brevity. Could the minister give us an assurance that the bill to reduce drug prices will be one of those "any other measures" mentioned in paragraph 1?

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I remind the hon. member that we are not in committee now. The minister has already spoken. If the hon. member for Timmins wants to make a presentation, he should complete it before the minister responds.

Mr. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, failing that assurance I will have to be my usual brief self.

There are two or three points which have been made and should be underlined. We should all realize that this is a government bill; that the bill has received first and second reading, approval in principle; that we do not need to take too much time of the house to complete the further stages. I think most important of all, Mr. Speaker, we should realize that no later than yesterday afternoon we had the assurance of the minister of consumer affairs that he is prepared to proceed with this bill at once. We also had the assurance that the minister wanted to see this bill through.

In the face of this, Mr. Speaker, and in view of the co-operation offered by the opposition to implement this legislation, what real reason do we have to hold it back?

Another matter that hon. members should realize is this. The government have the primary responsibility of bringing in the legislation that the house is going to deal with. They also have the responsibility of setting the time when the legislation should be brought in and dealt with. I think the members of the opposition should realize that they also have a responsibility in this regard. Who is affected by this legislation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member for Timmins to remind him that what is now before the house is not the bill to which he refers. I fully admit that the matter can be referred to incidentally when speaking to the motion, but there is a very specific motion before the house. The hon. member is making a speech that he