

Government Orders

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[English]

The Speaker: Accordingly, the bill stands referred to committee of the whole. Pursuant to Standing Order 100, I do now leave the chair for the House to go into committee of the whole.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, how can we be going into committee of the whole right now when we have second reading of the bill now?

The Speaker: I asked permission of the House. I did not see any members standing so I presumed that you had instructed me to go ahead with the second point. We can revert if there is unanimous agreement. Does the House wish to revert to second reading?

• (1510)

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Speaker: Agreed. Did I hear no?

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Speaker: Order. Does the House wish to revert to the second reading of the bill? Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Speaker: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I would like to know whether reverting to second reading means that all members who wish to speak will be able to do so or whether this is just to allow the member who so requested to make his speech, and we then go into committee of the whole.

The Speaker: This is to give any other members who wish to speak an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, if the government had made its intentions clear, there would be less confusion. If I understood correctly, consent was given for proceeding with second reading, with speeches from all sides of the House, then into committee of the whole followed by third reading, so that we would finish this evening at about 6 p.m. That was our understanding, but this does not seem to be quite clear, even on the government side. Could they decide one way or another? Then we will give our consent.

The Speaker: One moment please. Could the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands explain exactly what he intends to do?

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I suggested to the House, and I thought we had agreed, that the motion for second reading we would propose to the House would be for second reading and referral to committee of the whole instead of to a Standing

Committee of the House. That is all. There will be a debate on second reading: first the minister, then the opposition, the Reform Party, and perhaps a few other members, and after the motion for second reading is passed, the bill would be referred to a committee of the whole, according to the motion. That is all. And perhaps afterwards we can have unanimous consent for other business, but not now.

The Speaker: Is that clearer now?

Mr. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, there is another point I would like to make. We understand the procedure, but there was a motion before the House to the effect that voting on Bill C-3 would take place this evening. However the proceedings on this bill have been suspended. Would it be possible by some procedure of the House to continue the proceedings tomorrow on Bill C-3, contrary to the initial order of the House? If there had not been any changes, we would have finished this afternoon, but now, of course, that is not the case.

The Speaker: One moment. It would be possible if we had unanimous consent.

[English]

I will re-read the motion. Is there unanimous consent to the motion by Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre), seconded by Mr. MacLaren, that Bill C-10 an act to provide for the maintenance of west coast ports operations be now read a second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to a committee of the whole?

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion? We are going to have debate.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With respect you asked if there was unanimous consent to do that and it was granted. Therefore there is no need for the motion at this point. It is just a question of allowing the debate to take place. We did not rise in our place nor did others because normally the minister rises in his place to give the first speech on second reading. That is what we were waiting for when you stood up to go into committee of the whole.

We agreed to go into second reading and then have committee of the whole. That is what unanimous consent was given to and now we wait upon the minister to justify the bill before us.

The Speaker: Order. Understood and so ordered then. There is unanimous agreement for having second reading. We are going to go to debate and then we are going to come back to the committee of the whole. Compris?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

• (1515)

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the West Coast Ports Operations Act. It is legislation aimed at bringing about the resumption of longshore operations in the west coast ports. I should say in introducing this bill that I feel a sense of real regret and some frustration in