

principle which is fundamental to this country. We did it unanimously and I think we can all be proud of it.

**Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the comments of the Government House Leader. I must say I find it ironic that yesterday in the speeches we heard about tolerance for minorities. Certainly sitting as one member representing the Reform Party in the House of Commons found that it turned around and this minority was not respected.

We all know that I have every right to be consulted about unanimous consent in this House. I have tried to be very fair-minded in my tenure here, that I would not try to cause problems and hold up the proceedings of this House. However, I do have to say it was amazing that all that happened as soon as I left the Chamber.

I will also say in response to the Government House Leader's comments—and I will finish with this because I know we have other business to get on to—that the Government House Leader has just said that debate collapsed yesterday. Mr. Speaker, you know that the deputy House leader was here. I refer to page 8414 of *Hansard* yesterday where the Acting Speaker did not even call for further debate. I know that he generally says “resuming debate”. He immediately asked: “Is the House ready for the question?” We see another member screaming “no”. The Acting Speaker said: “I am sorry I cannot recognize the hon. member. He is not properly dressed.” That is fair enough. That presents another problem here.

I think what is so appalling and many Canadians also find appalling is that no chance was given. I have heard from several of my friends on the other side that they were very surprised at what happened. I want it clearly on the record that Canadian people are seeing this, expressing frustration and in fact shrugging their shoulders saying: “There they go again in the House of Commons”.

• (1020)

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the comments by the Government House Leader. I just want to correct the record slightly. The minister left the impression that the House Leader for the Liberal Party and the House

### *Point of Order*

Leader for the NDP categorically rejected any extension of hours. I refer you, Sir, to page 8400 of *Hansard* of February 15 where the member for Kamloops, the NDP House Leader, said:

It is not clear to me yet about the additional hours today and additional hours again on Monday to allow all members a chance to participate in the debate.

Further on the same page the member for Ottawa—Vanier on behalf of the Liberal Party said:

I do not want the minister to think for one moment that we want to extend or prolong this debate indefinitely.

The inference in both cases, Mr. Speaker, and in fact if you look at the comments from the Chair the Acting Speaker said:

We have had enough negotiations. I think what the House Leaders should do is have their negotiations and we should carry on with Orders of the Day.

This clearly infers the tradition of this House that the House Leaders will meet behind the curtain to work out the process. We were quite prepared to go along with extended hours.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I was involved in discussions. There seems to be some reaction from across the floor. We had not said no and we were quite prepared under reasonable circumstances to go ahead with extended hours but we wanted to know how long, how many speakers, all of those kind of things which we normally try to determine ahead of time. We did not want an open-ended situation where we were having speakers at three or four o'clock in the morning. That is just to add that, Mr. Speaker, to your considerations.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Beaver River has risen and has expressed what I must accept as her very great concern at for whatever reason not being able to take part in the debate yesterday. She has eloquently put her position. I have listened to the Minister of Justice. I have also listened to the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

Even if it was my intent to do so, there is nothing that the Speaker at this point can do to undo what took place yesterday. I know all hon. members will understand that. In any event, I think that this exchange indicates the necessity at all times to have the clearest understandings between members and among members and certainly