

Time Allocation

made by the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) with respect to the question, in terms of these grants that are given out by the Canada Council, as to who decides on those grants and on what basis. In other words, who is qualified to judge artistic quality? I would point out that this has always been one of the difficulties that the Canada Council has had in judging the work of artists, particularly young artists, and determining how those grants would be given.

The Canada Council is very unique in the sense that it is a creation of Government which, paradoxically, operates quite independently from Government, while remaining accountable to it. It is a structure of artists, by artists, for artists.

One of the original directors of the Canada Council stated that the Canada Council has to make decisions daily about artists in their twenties who have perhaps one volume of poetry to their name or a string quartet that has only given one performance. He said, "We are, in fact, required to look into the seeds of time and say which one will grow and which one will not."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has expired. I do now leave the Chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At 6 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE
**ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER SECOND READING STAGE
OF BILL C-131**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Miss Bégin:

That, in relation to Bill C-131, an Act to amend the Old Age Security Act (No. 2), one additional sitting day shall be allotted to the consideration of the second reading stage of the Bill; and

That 15 minutes before the expiry of the time provided for Government business on that day, any proceedings before the House shall be interrupted, if required, for the purpose of this Order and, in turn, every question then necessary in order to dispose of that stage of the Bill shall be put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. The Chair should perhaps explain to Hon. Members that the key for the bells has been mislaid.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): However, it being past the time of meeting, the occupant of the Chair thought that proceedings should start now as there is a quorum.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with you, Mr. Speaker. I would offer you a key if I had one. However, I must insist that unless the bells ring to inform Hon. Members that the House has, in fact, started, which would be quite out of the ordinary, then I think Hon. Members would be able to indicate, on a matter of privilege, that they had not been properly summoned for the evening session.

Since I am here, it does not matter to me, but I wish you would find the key, Sir, because it is important inasmuch as we will have a vote in 12 minutes, I can assure you of that, and without the bell, unless the Government House Leader is prepared, like the old bell ringer of years gone by, to take in his hand a bell and to march through the halls ringing it, we will feel obliged to ask that the vote not take place at that time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Do I see the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard) rising on the same point of order?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): They have lost the key? You have to be kidding.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I think we have a quorum and I understand the point made by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans). I will not agree to a vote being taken without the bell calling in the Members. However, I would invite him to quote the proper Standing Order stating that the bell is required at eight o'clock to call in the Members.

Mr. Deans: I would suggest, without quoting the Standing Order, that there is clear precedent for the necessity of ringing the bell in order to indicate—

An Hon. Member: Ding dong.

Mr. Deans:—that the House has been called into session. However, in the interests of harmony, if there were unanimous agreement, I would be quite content to allow the 12 minutes which are not yet used up in the two hour debate to be used now on the clear understanding that, but for the want of a key, the vote could take place. Maybe we could agree that if we do not have a key 12 minutes from now, the vote will take place when the key arrives.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Somebody should check their pockets.

Mr. Pinard: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I welcome the suggestion, which I was about to make, that in order not to waste any time, due to this fortuitous event, and considering the fact that we have a quorum and Hon. Members want to conclude debate on the motion which is being debated by the House, we conclude debate after 12 minutes, and if we still have not