

Business of the House

Beauchesne's fourth edition, citation 195, gives us direction with regard to the moving of such motions and states that motions of this kind are as follows:

"That consideration of the question be postponed to—(date)."
 "That the orders of the day be read."
 "That the house proceed to (name another order);
 or that the house proceed to the next business."

I would also draw Your Honour's attention to the fact that on May 14, 1956 a motion of the kind I propose to move was moved in this house. On that occasion the then government whip, Mr. W. G. Weir, had moved a motion for the substitution of a number of names on committees. Hon. Walter Harris, seconded by the present Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) moved, under standing order 44, the following motion:

That we do now proceed to the orders of the day.

That was an undebatable motion which was carried, and we jumped over all the intervening items and went straight into government business. It is therefore my contention that one has the right today, on this motion moved by the government whip, to present a similar motion.

My motion could read exactly as Mr. Harris' motion read, that the house do now proceed to the orders of the day, but I point out that last night at ten o'clock the government house leader indicated that if we did finish the flag debate today the item of government business to be called would be order No. 77, having to do with the Canada labour code. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, believing that this motion is in order, believing that it has precision in that it directs precisely what we would go to rather than just that we move to something else or that we adjourn, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas):

That the house do now proceed to government order No. 77, namely "House again in committee of the whole on Bill C-126".

Mr. Speaker: I listened with a great deal of attention to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, especially when he was reading standing order 44. Perhaps I might respectfully suggest, and I think I am right in this procedure, that the Chair would feel better about the motion if it did not seem to conflict with standing order 18, and if it were changed to read that this house now proceed to the orders of the day. I do not think it is necessary at this time to read standing order 18, but I make that suggestion

to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I was aware of standing order 18 (2) when I drafted my motion, and in a sense I alluded to it when I pointed out that the government house leader indicated last night that the first item of government business to be called after the flag debate would be government order No. 77. For that reason I felt it appropriate to name in my motion the precise item, but if Your Honour feels that it trespasses on order 18 (2), which gives the government the authority to call government items in the sequence it thinks fit, I would be willing to accept the change in my motion which the Chair has suggested. In view of the announcement made by the government house leader last night it would have the same effect if my motion were worded as Your Honour suggests and we were to proceed immediately to government orders.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, the government will reserve its right under rule 18 (2) to call government orders in such sequence as the government may think fit.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind the President of the Privy Council that this is not a debatable motion at this time. It is my duty to put this motion, which I believe to be in order, before the house. Then the house will dispose of it as it desires. It is moved by Mr. Knowles, seconded by Mr. Douglas, that the house do now proceed to orders of the day. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: Those against will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: Call in the members.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Knowles) which was negated on the following division: