

Government Orders

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Hon. members have heard the suggestion. Is there unanimous consent for the member to ask a question?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Milliken: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister just gave notice that an agreement could not be reached pursuant to Standing Order 78(3). I have spoken with the opposition House leader, the opposition Whip, and there was no consultation whatever in respect of Standing Order 78(3). No request was made for an agreement, I am so instructed. I am the assistant House leader on our side. No request has been made through me or with me for any time allocation arrangement in respect of Bill C-73. This notice in my view is improper.

While I recognize Your Honour may do nothing this afternoon, I expect that on Monday this point will be argued in the House.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the facts differs from that of my friend opposite. There have been consultations with the House leadership of the Official Opposition and with the House leadership of the New Democratic Party and avenues, therefore, under Standing Order 78(1) and (2) have been explored.

I referred briefly and clearly to that situation in a discussion that I had with my hon. friend from Kingston and the Islands within the past hour.

Mr. Milliken: I agree that the hon. member indicated to me that it was the minister's intention to give the notice that he has given. That does not constitute consultation. That may be notice that the government is going to give notice.

Standing Order 78(3) is quite specific. He must state that an agreement could not be reached. A request must be made for an agreement. Some consultation must take place.

The House leader has told me that there was no consultation with him. The Whip has told me that he has not been consulted on this matter either. I have not been consulted on this matter. I do not know if some other member on this side was consulted.

• (1620)

I know it was not the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce who is the critic on this bill and I know it was not the deputy Leader of the Opposition. I would like to

know who it was. If the hon. member thinks that consultation with various staff members of the members of this House is sufficient, the precedents in this House indicate it is not. The consultation must be with members. There has been no consultation and no request for an agreement with these members. If there has been, I would like to know with whom the consultation took place because there must be an attempt to reach an agreement with the members.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to understand what my hon. friend is saying. If he is offering agreement then we accept the agreement.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The Chair will take the question raised by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands under advisement and has duly noted what was said by members on all sides of the House. On Monday, the Chair will probably be in a position to rule whether the time allocation notice given by the Minister of Employment and Immigration was in order.

Pursuant to order adopted earlier, I will now allow a period for questions to be put to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

The hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood.

[*English*]

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I thank the House and specifically the minister for giving me this opportunity.

I listened to the minister carefully and being a member in downtown Toronto we must listen to him carefully because 90 per cent of our time as members of Parliament in downtown Toronto is taken up on matters related to immigration.

I have not had enough time to read thoroughly and analyse the immigration amendments in total, and therefore I do not want to get into the substance of the bill. Our critic, the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, will begin that debate for us.

Many of the things that the minister said today I have good feeling for. There is one thing that I did not hear him talk about and that is additional support staff, additional man-years in order to make sure these changes, these transitions and this streamlining, can really be done.