

Reference to Committee

Mrs. Holt: He did not appear at the committee either. I am rising to respond and correct the record of this week when certain things happened in this House. He referred to my intervention about his absence from a committee. Mr. Speaker, when his party closed down this House on Tuesday last we were all working on that bill, and the member of that party who was a member of the committee did not attend, nor did they see fit to send a substitute. There were 21 people at that committee, and this House was closed because there were only 17—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. I regret having to interrupt the hon. lady but I think she is aware that we are at third reading stage of Bill C-9. It is difficult for the Chair to see how the remarks she has just made are directed to that end. I think it really is not a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): It being four o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business, namely, notices of motions, public bills and private bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

REFERENCE OF BILLS NOS. C-316, C-366, C-369 AND C-370 TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among members of the House about the proper disposition of this time now available to us. It was agreed that we would put a motion to commit four bills, dealing with the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, to the House for second reading stage and committal to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. If the standing committee wished to take action on these bills they would have to be reported back to the House about the middle of February because the new commissioners will begin their deliberations on March 1. If that is agreeable to the House, I would read the numbers of the bills and then provide a general motion for committal of those bills to the standing committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Does the parliamentary secretary have the consent of the House to proceed?

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Baldwin: He forgot to say "through the usual channels".

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I should say that this was all done through the usual channels.

● (1600)

I move, seconded by the hon. member for London East (Mr. Turner):

That Bills Nos. C-316, C-366, C-369 and C-370 be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Order, please. The hon. member, seconded by the hon. member for London East (Mr. Turner), moves that the four bills dealing with the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act be dealt with at the same time during private members' hour this afternoon. These bills are C-316, C-366, C-369 and C-370. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the statement made by the parliamentary secretary is correct, namely, that there have been discussions and that we have reached the agreement alluded to respecting those four bills mentioned. However, I rise on a point of procedure. There is a rule which says that bills are not to be referred to committee until after they have been given second reading. The hon. member did not say that they would be given second reading and referred to the committee. Neither did he use words to the effect that the bills would not be read the second time, but that the subject matter would be referred. I want to be sure that what we do has some validity.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, it is intended to give the bills second reading and to refer them to that committee so that, after that committee makes any decision, they may come back in the form of a bill or bills with which the House can deal.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That is better. That is our understanding. You need a little help over there, don't you?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): The understanding of the Chair is that the four bills referred to are to be deemed to have been read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that we revert to government orders, for the purpose of dealing with the business that was agreed upon for today. We have dealt with one of the bills which I had indicated would be called today. I should like, if possible, for the House to revert to government orders so that we may proceed with the remainder.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.