

Routine Proceedings

I have heard time and time again in this Chamber and privately, if I may, Madam Speaker, that the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader always talks about the fundamental issue of accountability. Accountability is important, but I think Canadians should see and hear and receive our spoken word, which would subsequently be reported in *Hansard*. They should receive all of this information so that they will have an opportunity to say their member of Parliament is either accountable to what we believe to be important or not accountable.

I would hope that this will proceed and will get the support of all members of this House. I know that a number of my colleagues, and in their absence, Madam Speaker, I want you to know that my colleagues from Cape Breton—The Sydneys, Cape Breton Highlands—Canso, Halifax, Cardigan, Winnipeg South Centre and Winnipeg North all wanted to participate today in this particular debate in order that they may put their concerns on the record.

In point of fact just yesterday my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood and I had extended conversation with regard to the subject matter of broadcasting of committee meetings. In fact, my colleague brought to my attention some very pertinent information I was not aware of at the time and I know later on in our deliberations we will want to hear from the hon. member for Broadview—Greenwood who will make a stirring address on the floor of the House of Commons.

I wish to close my brief remarks unless there is unanimous consent for me to continue.

An hon. member: Filibuster.

Mr. Dingwall: No, I would not filibuster. That is not my intention. But I want the parliamentary secretary to know that my colleague from Kingston and the Islands will clearly spell out that although this is a compromise of the different views, it is certainly not the standard that we thought the government wished to pursue. My colleague from Kingston and the Islands will give a chapter and verse, detailed, *t's* crossed, *i's* dotted, precise information on that point.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you and I want to thank all of those members, including the hon. member opposite who led off this debate on this report, for their interventions. I hope that this kind of co-operation, notwithstanding it was a compromise, can continue and that it will be unanimous. I say that without speaking to other individuals in this Chamber. I think

it quite important that we proceed in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Cooper: Madam Speaker, if I am not mistaken the House leader for the Official Opposition asked if there would be unanimous consent for him to extend his remarks.

I want to indicate to him that I think that may not be a bad idea. We are looking at possibly concurring in the 23rd, 24th, 27th, 22nd, and 28th reports. Maybe what we could do is debate them all together and then we would be more than happy to have him take some more time to do that if that is what the House would be willing to do.

Mr. Dingwall: Madam Speaker, there are two issues here. The first issue is unanimous support for me to continue with my speech on report No. 23. I do not think there is agreement.

The second issue is to take in other reports and to weave them in under the auspices of report No. 23. I wish that I could co-operate with the hon. member because it is a reasonable suggestion. I have to inform the Chair and the hon. member that my colleagues wish to speak to certain reports, not to others and as a result, I cannot give unanimous consent at this time.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to ask my colleague a few questions.

We do not often have the chance to ask our esteemed House leader questions in the House of Commons, so I would like to take this opportunity to ask him a question or two about report No. 23.

We have here a report of the House management committee which is a committee that consists of senior representatives of all three political parties. I agree with my friend and colleague that we ought to have more openness as far as committees are concerned, and the public ought to have an opportunity to listen in on the work of committees and to see the work of other committees.

I would like to ask the hon. House leader of the Official Opposition whether he and his colleagues, perhaps the member for Saint-Denis and others can indicate, are prepared to have the affairs of the House management committee opened up and broadcast so that other Canadians and MPs can listen in or see what the elite members of the House of Commons, the senior members, the important MPs in this House are discussing in order for there to be more credibility to the whole process.