Business of the House

rising until eight p.m. and sit from eight p.m. until 10.30 p.m. on government business. In other words, we are aware that in doing this we are making no provision for routine proceedings or the question period tomorrow afternoon. It seems to me that this should be cleared up by a House order. There are still a couple of ministers in the House.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, there may well be a couple of matters in the course of dealing with the business of the House that would require House orders. Perhaps we should go through the list and determine what we need in the way of a House order. I could then ask the President of the Treasury Board to seek the orders.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): That is agreeable, Mr. Speaker. I think my friend means he will be dealing with the matter later today.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps there will be some consultation. We will be coming to motions shortly so perhaps there will be an application for a House order then.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, am I allowed to speak on this?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, of course the hon. member is allowed to speak. We are attempting to clear up a matter of House business and other hon. members may want to speak on it.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask about the committee meeting in the afternoon. One is scheduled for tomorrow and if it should have to be rescheduled out of respect for our late friend I should like to set the wheels in motion now.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, we could certainly cover that point in the House order that is to come later in the day. It would seem to me if the step we contemplate is a gesture of respect for one of our colleagues it would follow that neither the House nor committees would meet.

To revert to the point raised by the Conservative House leader, may I say it is agreeable to the government and I hope there will be unanimous consent, that votes on Bill C-27 deferred earlier today be taken tonight at 9.45 p.m.; that is, the bells would begin to ring at 9.45 p.m.

In connection with the other items of business, we intend to proceed this afternoon with Bill C-20, the legislation on the Auditor General. If standing divisions are called for during the course of that discussion it might be appropriate that those votes, if required, be deferred until 9.45 p.m. as well.

After we dispose of the Auditor General's legislation there are two finance bills waiting at report stage, the legislation dealing with the Bretton Woods Agreements and the legislation relating to currency and exchange. Thereafter, it would be our intention to move to Bill C-49 relating to the Canada Pension Plan. That is the order of business we had in mind.

Regarding the automatic reference of reports of the Auditor General to committee, I would have to leave that point for further consultation. The President of the Treasury Board may have something specific to say about it at this stage, but if not, I will undertake to consult on that point and report to the opposition House leader later in the day.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I was given to understand a few days ago that from five p.m. to six p.m. tomorrow a number of private members' bills would be brought forward. They are simply measures to change the names of some ridings and would not take very long. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could advise when they might be rescheduled so that this legislation can go through before the session ends.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that precise information at this time, but I will consult with the House leaders and hopefully will be able to give the hon. member the information before the end of the afternoon.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could negotiate quickly as it might be possible to deal with this legislation today between five p.m. and six p.m.

Mr. Goodale: I will try, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think things are sorting themselves out but I was a little puzzled about why the parliamentary secretary included potential votes at report stage on amendments to Bill C-20. We already have 10 or 12 recorded votes to be taken tonight. Unless we have completed Bill C-20 and want to add those votes on tonight, I would suggest that we should not have any but the votes on Bill C-27 and hold Bill C-20 votes. Let us be satisfied with 10 or 12 votes tonight.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Speaker, that was my intention when I raised the issue. If we finish Bill C-20, we could tonight dispose of the votes which may be deferred. If we have not finished with Bill C-20 tonight, I think we should deal with the deferred votes on it all at the same time, but at a later stage.

• (1550)

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Conservative party's House leader raised the point concerning referral of the Auditor General's report. I believe the chairman of the public accounts committee would confirm the communication sent by the House leader of my party to the effect that this matter would be dealt with through the procedures of the House, and that there will be favourable consideration of the matter at that time; the matter ought not to be dealt with in the Auditor General's bill or the amendments thereto, but ought to be dealt with in its appropriate forum.