

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### MOTION RESPECTING SUMMER RECESS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pinard:

That, when the House adjourns on the day this order is adopted, it shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 14, 1981, provided that at any time prior to that date, if it appears to the satisfaction of Madam Speaker, after consultation with the government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time, Madam Speaker may give notice that she is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

That, in the event of Madam Speaker's being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of Committees or the Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees shall act in her stead for all the purposes of this order.

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, I have almost finished my intervention on this motion. Let me just refer you to the text—  
[English]

Yes, I have an hour and a half to go. However, since I am creating the case for 20-minute speeches, I should set the example. I am sure that when the Leader of the Opposition follows me, he will set the example and limit himself to 20 minutes. For that I thank him in advance.

May I now refer to the motion. It has been drafted the same as in the past with the same standard provisions. The House will adjourn until mid-October, which is the normal date for the return of Parliament in the fall, and I quote:

—provided that at any time prior to that date, if it appears to the satisfaction of Madam Speaker, after consultation with the government that the public interest—

I repeat that:

—that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time, Madam Speaker may give notice that she is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time;—

Possibly I misunderstood, but yesterday I heard some members say that once we adjourn until mid-October, that is it; Parliament will not be able to do anything before the middle of the fall.

**Mr. Lambert:** Those on your side.

**Mr. Pinard:** I heard it from members on both sides. To pretend if my motion is accepted that it is theoretically and physically impossible for Parliament to sit earlier than October 14 is not correct. I am not saying that the House of Commons will come back earlier, but that it is theoretically possible. In fact, this was done last summer when we came back a week or ten days early. It was done a few years ago when we dealt with the bill on the pipeline. We returned in mid-August to deal with that bill.

It is up to the elected representatives to look at the facts. When the public interest is at stake, it is up to the government

### Summer Recess

to assume its responsibility. If it fails to do that, we have an election. It looks as though the Liberal party has assumed its responsibility rather well in the past.

[Translation]

Therefore, when we are told that Parliament cannot meet before the middle of the fall, this is not true. Theoretically, it remains a possibility; the motion respecting the summer recess is drafted in such a way that if the public interest requires it, the government may recall the House of Commons to address this question, as was the case last summer and as was the case not too long ago when the House was recalled to study a bill on the pipeline. I do not say that the government intends to take this action; that is not the point. The question is hypothetical and I say this simply to refute the arguments of those who claim that this motion makes it physically impossible for Parliament, for the House of Commons, to sit before October 14. Let us be clear on this; this is not only true in theory, it is a possibility; Parliament can be recalled this summer and for the time being no decision has been reached nor am I in a position to confirm or to deny that the government does or does not intend to recall the House of Commons earlier than October 14.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, I can hardly add anything to the balance sheet I summarized a moment ago, and I will not repeat myself. In my opinion, we have had so far in this session a rather considerable and highly appreciable production of legislation, motions and reports, as well as the work done by all sorts of committees of the House. I am not trying to pat anyone on the back; it is simply a matter of looking at the facts and to conclude that indeed a lot of work has been done in recent months. Of course, some members would have liked to accomplish still more, and I count myself among them, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest once again that if we had more modern tools to work with, the House of Commons and the committees would be a lot more active and a lot more productive, and they would also be working under much more human conditions. Now, as I said earlier, after we have just had royal assent, changes are in the air and I think that we have been able to clear up most of the bills which had accumulated as a result of the last two elections in less than one year and, within reasonable time, we will be in a position to consider and negotiate changes and submit them for study by appropriate groups.

Mr. Speaker, those are the essential remarks I wanted to make at this stage of the session. I hope hon. members will agree to consider adjourning later today, in principle until October 14. Yesterday I heard the Leader of the Opposition suggest in his questions that on the face of it he was tempted not to support this motion for as long as the postal strike is not settled. I think he had not read the text of the motion when he said that. I am not asking him for anything, I am simply expressing a wish. Should he insist that we go on passing bills this summer, we are at his disposal, but then may I be