

Private Bills—Divorce

Stick
Stuart (Charlotte)
Tucker
Tustin
Weaver
Weir

White (Hastings-
Frontenac)
White (Middlesex East)
White (Waterloo South)
Winters—56.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Pickersgill: You may not ask questions of Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knight: I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Pickersgill: I rise on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Pickersgill: My point of order is that it is a well-known rule of the house that questions may not be put to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bell: What is its number?

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I also rise on a question of privilege. I submit that I raised my question of privilege before the minister raised his.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mine was a point of order.

Mr. Knight: My question of privilege is this. The minister made a remark as to what my course of action should have been in regard to this vote. He made some assertion in my hearing about whether or not we should call votes.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The remark of the minister to which the hon. member refers was not in my hearing. I think we might as well leave things as they are. I now say that this bill is referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills, and I would ask the deputy clerk to read the next order.

Bill referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.

JEANNE D'ARC OUELLETTE MARTIN

Mr. W. J. Henderson (Kingston) moved the second reading of Bill No. 234, for the relief of Jeanne D'Arc Ouellette Martin.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Cavers):

That the subject matter of Bills Nos. 234, 235, 236 and 237 be referred to the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that the hon. gentleman is premature, to say the least, in moving this motion. I must take these bills one at a time. The order that has just been read is for the second reading of this bill entitled "An Act for the relief of Jeanne D'Arc Ouellette Martin". The reference of the subject matter is in the form of a subsidiary motion or of an amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment lost. I would remind hon. members that standing order 12, paragraph (2) reads as follows:

(2) When Mr. Speaker is putting a question, no member shall enter, walk out of or across the house, or make any noise or disturbance.

Bill read the second time.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I am not acquainted with the rule of the house as to the length of time the bell is supposed to ring. However, I assure you that I was in my office when that bell rang. I went to the elevator. There was no elevator available immediately. After a moment or so it came up. I came down here and found that the bill was ready to be called. I made no attempt to vote. I draw the matter to your attention, Mr. Speaker. Several of my colleagues were in the same position as that in which I found myself. We did not reach the house in time to vote.

Mr. Pickersgill: That shows the unwisdom of calling for unnecessary votes.

Mr. Quelch: Mr. Speaker, I should like to support what the hon. member for Saskatoon has just said. I was in my room at the time the bell rang. I left my room, and if it had not been for the fact that I used the stairs instead of the elevator, I would have missed being in the chamber.

Mr. Speaker: As hon. members know, the interests of hon. members are taken care of by whips. There are two sides. There is the side to my right which has a whip and there is the side to my left which has a whip of the official opposition. Whenever I say, "Call in the members", those two whips go out in the lobby. The Sergeant-at-Arms, who gives me the nod when it is time to put the motion to the house, will never enter the house unless and until the two whips on the two sides have walked into the house and indicated that their members have been called in for the purposes of the division. Then the Sergeant-at-Arms walks in. Whenever I see him walk in and make his little salute to me, I take that as being my signal that it is time for me to put the question.

I am sure the remarks of the hon. member for Saskatoon and the hon. member for Acadia will have been noted by the two whips who, I am sure, are just as much interested as anybody else that all members cast their votes.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, might I ask one further question?