

*Private Members' Business*

I would like to ask my colleague if he knows of more possible instances of legal problems affecting minorities or citizens in his part of the country?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Order, please. I draw your attention to the fact that there was a small power failure and it is now eight o'clock.

It being eight o'clock p.m. it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 81(17), proceedings on the motion have expired.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

With respect, I think it is too bad we were not warned we had lost a few minutes. I was in committee all day, on that important joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons and also on the special committee on electoral reform. I would have liked to take part in this debate. It is too bad we have run out of time, but I want to be on the record as saying that I would have liked to speak in this debate. We had no idea the bells would take us by surprise and we would miss the hon. member's brilliant response to the question—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Order, please. With his experience, the hon. member for Saint-Denis ought to know that. In any case it is 8 p.m., even if we are running somewhat late.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Would you consider Standing Order 26?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Pursuant to Standing Order 30(7), the House will now proceed to consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[*English*]

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### SETTING OF GUIDELINES

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt)** moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider introducing legislation setting conflict of interest guidelines for Members of Parliament and Senators; and that these guidelines should also regulate conflict of interest and post-employment practices for senior bureaucrats and senior political staff.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member for Nickel Belt who is moving the motion and others are members of a parliamentary committee that is presently dealing with the whole issue of conflict of interest.

The government has already introduced legislation which is the subject matter before this committee. We will soon be writing our report, and it seems to me that this motion is redundant in that the matter that the member is raising has already been done.

If it is the wish of the House to take the next hour to generally discuss this matter, then so be it. But the House should be aware that the matter is already before a parliamentary committee which is looking into a piece of legislation that was introduced into this House.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in the Standing Orders that says a private member's motion that has been introduced in the House cannot be debated while a motion similar but not the same would be under review.

That bill which my hon. colleague has referred to was never debated here at second reading. It was introduced and then turned over for pre-study.

The committee is doing a pre-study, but there is nothing in the Standing Orders that precludes a member's motion introduced into the House from being debated on an issue which is under discussion by a study committee of the House.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Langlois:** Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the hon. member who said that the subject matter of this motion is now before a Joint Committee of the House and the Senate. If I could have unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, I would move that the motion as presented be referred to this committee for consideration and subsequently reported back to the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Saint-Denis. The Chair awaits your sage advice.