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Chair

Mr. Scott Simms

Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans

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• (1535)

[English]

The Chair (Mr. Scott Simms (Coast of Bays—Central—Notre Dame, Lib.)): We will commence.

Let me start by saying that pursuant to Standing Order 81(5) the committee will consider the supplementary estimates 2016-17, Votes 1b, 5b, and 10b under Department of Fisheries and Oceans, referred to the committee on Thursday, November 3, 2016.

As we normally do in this particular case when we are talking about estimates....

Mr. Doherty.

Mr. Todd Doherty (Cariboo—Prince George, CPC): Mr. Chair, I move that we postpone this meeting to next week, given that we do not have a full group here. In fairness to everyone, and given that our time schedule is going to be pushed because of the goings on in the House, I think it's only fair.

The Chair: Mr. Doherty, I'd love to help you out, but under reduced quorum we are unable to make the motions. We can only hear from witnesses at this time. That is a ruling we undertook earlier, but right now we have to move on with just that, because I have to move for—

Sorry, do you want to add to that?

Mr. Arnold.

Mr. Mel Arnold (North Okanagan—Shuswap, CPC): Can this be considered to be a fully constituted meeting, seeing that we do not have any government members?

The Chair: It is a meeting, but there's a reduced quorum. We can do that in the presence of witnesses. Under reduced quorum, we can hear from witnesses.

I realize that our chief witness, the minister, is not here, but from what I understand, I believe somebody from the department is willing to give testimony as well, so we're going to proceed with that. That's the reason I proceeded.

Before I get to you, Ms. Blewett, I'm going to have to—

Mr. Donnelly, do you have something to add?

Mr. Fin Donnelly (Port Moody—Coquitlam, NDP): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am going to move that we adjourn.

The Chair: We're going to have to do just that.

We can suspend or we can adjourn. Do you want to follow through on your motion to adjourn? Because I'm about to suspend?

Mr. Fin Donnelly: I withdraw my motion.

The Chair: Very well, then. We have to suspend due to the fact that votes have now been called in the House of Commons.

My apologies to the witnesses. We will reconvene. The votes take place at 4:15 p.m., so hopefully after that, at about 4:25 p.m. at the earliest, we'll reconvene.

Mr. Doherty, do you have something to add?

Mr. Todd Doherty: Given what's going on right now, I think adjournment is the proper process.

The Chair: You believe that adjournment is the proper process. Very well.

You withdrew your motion.

Do you have a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Todd Doherty: Yes, it's a motion to adjourn, exactly.

The Chair: All right, seeing that we have more people, we'll...

Not that it has anything to do with your motion. My apologies. I didn't mean to bias it in that way, but you do have a motion—

Mr. Todd Doherty: —to adjourn.

The Chair: All right. Very well, we have that. There is a motion to adjourn on the table.

Mr. Finnigan.

Mr. Pat Finnigan (Miramichi—Grand Lake, Lib.): Would you repeat the motion, please?

Mrs. Bernadette Jordan (South Shore—St. Margarets, Lib.): Could we have clarification, please?

The Chair: Very quickly, it's just—

Mr. Todd Doherty: It's a motion to adjourn, given that—

The Chair: It's a motion to adjourn until after the voting.

Mrs. Bernadette Jordan: I have a question.

The Chair: No, you can't ask a question.

Mr. Todd Doherty: It's not debatable.

The Chair: Yes, you're right. My apologies. I was getting ahead of myself.

Mr. Todd Doherty: Sorry, it's not debatable.

The Chair: This is a motion to adjourn. It is not debatable.

All those in favour of adjournment, please raise your hand.

(Motion negatived)

The Chair: Seeing more people opposed, we're not going to adjourn.

However, seeing that there are bells.... Well actually, no, I'll get direction from the committee on this one.

The bells are ringing. My apologies, but when the bells are ringing, we have to seek unanimous consent to continue with the meeting. Otherwise we will continue after the vote has taken place.

Is there unanimous consent to continue the meeting right now, for about five to ten minutes? To be more precise, let's say 10 minutes. We have to deal with this first. The bells are ringing.

• (1540)

Mrs. Bernadette Jordan: I'm sorry. Okay.

The Chair: I'm seeking unanimous consent to continue this meeting for up to 10 minutes. Does anybody have anything against that?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Chair: That being said, we are going to continue this meeting for 10 minutes.

Mr. Donnelly, go ahead, please, quickly.

Mr. Fin Donnelly: In terms of the agenda, we are just going to discuss whether we come back and what's on the agenda. And if we do return, what that agenda would be. Is that correct?

The Chair: I understand that one of our witnesses has a short interjection. We could do that too within 10 minutes.

However, Ms. Jordan, you had....

Sorry, Mr. Donnelly, were you finished? No?

Mr. Fin Donnelly: No, I was just clarifying the agenda. You're suggesting that we're not going to do that and that we're going to hear from witnesses.

Is that right?

The Chair: It was asked of us that two witnesses will speak, the minister and somebody from the department. I was proposing that maybe we could hear from the department to start with, so we can get that out of the way before we come back.

Mrs. Bernadette Jordan: I'd like to move that we suspend.

The Chair: You mean adjourn, right?

Mrs. Bernadette Jordan: No, I mean suspend.

The Chair: All right, so we'll suspend for now, reconvening after the votes at a reasonable time.

(Motion agreed to)

The Chair: That's done, so we'll see you in about 45 to 50 minutes.

Thank you.

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