

House of Commons Procedures

ward for the decision of the House. If there is any doubt in the mind of the hon. gentleman, I would ask the representatives of other parties to agree with me to put forward some kind of proposition which would protect his right to move such an amendment for decision by the House.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that there is another way we can get around this difficulty, still meet the representations which have been made by the hon. Member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) and also comply with what appears to be the agreement reached at the House Leaders' meeting to withdraw the amendment before the House at this time and pass the remainder of Government Order 14. That being the case, I presume we would immediately go into Committee of the Whole to consider the balance of Government Order 15, which contains one paragraph the hon. Member for Lapointe wishes to debate and have deleted. If there is a disposition on the part of all parties in the House to move fairly rapidly through the many provisions contained in Government Order 15, we will have an opportunity to move a number of amendments in Committee and have decisions of the Committee taken without extended debate. Surely if the hon. Member for Lapointe has the opportunity in Committee of the Whole to move that the section concerning standing order 12 be deleted from the resolution, he will have achieved his purpose by having the Committee of the Whole House decide the particular point.

As a matter of fact, there are a number of amendments which we in this party would like to move. I admit they are minor amendments to the many provisions in the resolution. We too hope to have an opportunity to move these amendments in Committee of the Whole and have a decision taken very quickly so that we can go through all these provisions. I presume that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. McIlraith) or perhaps the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), when the next resolution is introduced, may bring forward some amendments to change the wording of the resolution, but it seems to me that if we were to follow this kind of procedure the hon. Member for Lapointe could move his amendment, a decision could be taken on it, and we could move through this business within the next two days.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I make a suggestion which might be of some value. Could we consider reversing the order of the first two paragraphs of Order No. 15 so that

[Mr. McIlraith.]

the proposed standing order 12 dealing with Mr. Speaker's position in the House would become the first item and would be the first subject for discussion? I am sure the hon. Member would have an opportunity at that time to move his amendment.

Mr. McIlraith: That would certainly be agreeable to the Government. That would mean that the hon. Member for Lapointe would have an opportunity to move his amendment to the motion tonight.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, do I understand that the first item of discussion in regard to Government Order 15 will be paragraph 2, that one Member of each party, by unanimous consent of the House, will speak on this paragraph and that we will be able to present our own amendment?

• (8:40 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Grégoire: If that is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, then we agree.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): If I understand the wishes of the House, my first duty is to ask for the permission of the House to withdraw the amendment moved by the hon. Member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Bell). Is that right?

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I am authorized by the hon. Member for Saint John-Albert to withdraw the amendment on his behalf.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order, please. An amendment which has been proposed and discussed can only be withdrawn with the consent of the hon. Member who moved it or the consent of someone acting on his behalf, and with unanimous consent of the House. Does the House give unanimous consent to the withdrawal of the amendment now before the House?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Amendment (Mr. Bell) withdrawn.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, do I understand that the proposal made a few moments ago by myself was agreed to by unanimous consent?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): It is my understanding that unanimous consent was given to that proposal.

Mr. Grégoire: That was agreed to?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.