

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

what are difficult circumstances in arranging these matters, to make the kind of personal reference that has been made.

Mr. Starr: I did so kindly, having all respect for the hon. gentleman.

Mr. McIlraith: I hope we can arrive at a better basis for dealing with public business. These measures are not government measures, and the government is making a considerable concession—in the circumstances I believe properly so—to private members. But I do not like these statements about the government house leader going on the record which are not in accordance with the facts.

In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, and in order to prevent ill-feeling we will agree to an eight o'clock adjournment; but I do plead again with hon. members to get on with the important piece of legislation that now has been occupying the house for four days.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I cannot let these remarks go without having something to say about them. We are getting along. I realize that the house leader has other onerous duties to perform in his post as Minister of Public Works, but we are getting along and surprisingly better than he thinks. I can assure him that spending three or four days on an important bill like this medicare bill is not taking too much time, in view of the fact that it will not come into effect until July 1, 1968.

Mr. Howard: Briefly, Mr. Speaker, because I guess I started all this, I first want to thank the house leader for agreeing to the adjournment until eight o'clock. I point out that it was my error in that initially I suggested in our private discussions that we adjourn for one hour. Having discussed this with the house leader, it was only after he had left my presence to talk to others that somebody suggested to me that perhaps eight o'clock would be the better hour because it used to be the normal hour for resumption of business. I apologize for causing confusion and I thank the hon. gentleman for this co-operation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the house agree to stand the three notices of motions for production of papers?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The house will now proceed to the consideration of private bills.

Mr. Howard: Might I make the request that the house consider, inasmuch as items 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all listed as house in committee, going into committee on the four bills at once?

[Mr. McIlraith.]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that I do now leave the chair so that the four bills mentioned may be considered in committee?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE BILLS**INCOME LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA**

The house in committee on Bill No. S-11, to incorporate Income Life Insurance Company of Canada—Mr. Macaluso—Mr. Batten in the chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 8—*Power to acquire rights, etc., of a certain insurance company.*

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, before this clause carries there is a requirement in sub-clause (2) to the effect that no agreement between the company which is seeking to be incorporated and the provincial company which already exists which provides for any acquisition or amalgamation shall become effective until it has been approved by Treasury Board. On the surface, Mr. Chairman, this seemed to us on an earlier occasion in the proceedings to have been rather a strange requirement and we were wondering why it was that Treasury Board was involved in the private affairs of insurance companies. It was this wonderment on our part that occasioned the postponement of this bill until this time.

We have subsequently been advised that this matter is a requirement of the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, and even though it does seem strange, it is a requirement under public law and to that extent is acceptable.

However, Mr. Chairman, I urge on those who are responsible for developing public law from time to time that they look at this requirement and see whether or not some other body can be given the responsibility of approving such measures and acquisitions instead of Treasury Board. After all, Treasury Board has a lot more important things to do than fiddle around with the relationships of private insurance companies. Therefore I urge the government to take a serious look at this question from the point of view of trying to make some alterations in the general law at some time in the future.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.