

*Business of the House*

little while ago, I might give him this much information; that during the period hon. members on the other side of the house have been taking up the time of the house, the government was able to hold a full-size council meeting and do a lot of things for the good of the country.

**Mr. Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, I feel sure, then, that the cabinet owes a great debt of gratitude to the opposition for giving them that opportunity. It is about time they did hold a full cabinet meeting to decide just what kind of business they are going to carry out.

**Mr. Drew:** It is the first time they have had a chance for a full cabinet meeting for some time.

**Mr. Fraser:** Yes, it is the first time they have had a chance to have a full cabinet meeting because—

**Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf):** Out of order.

**Mr. Fraser:** Well, if the hon. member would look up from his book when he speaks, we might recognize him.

**Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf):** My book is far more interesting than your speech.

**Mr. Fraser:** I do not doubt that at all. I was saying that this is perhaps the one chance the cabinet has had to get together, because cabinet members—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:** Who started this?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Would the hon. member come back to the amendment?

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, may I point out that the subject of the cabinet sitting this afternoon was raised by the Minister of Agriculture. I suggest to him that if he wants to stop the discussion of this motion a very clear way is indicated to him; because we are ready to sit tonight and get on with the business of the house, but we are not prepared to submit to the big stick.

**Mr. Gardiner:** It was not I who raised the question. The hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) suggested that the cabinet ministers had been having a nap, so I indicated to him that they were having a council meeting.

**Mr. Fulton:** The same thing.

**Mr. Fraser:** Then they have been napping for a long time; otherwise this business would have been brought up earlier.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must ask the hon. member to revert to the amendment.

**Mr. Fraser:** Yes. As I said, when I stood up first—

**Mr. Pearson:** For the third time.

**Mr. Fraser:**—I wish to support the amendment of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough).

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** We never doubted that.

**Mr. Fraser:** I think it is a very fair amendment. We are meeting half-way the wishes of the government and those of the hon. member who put the motion. I think it would be only fair for the government and others to support the amendment. Then we could get on with the business of the house.

**An hon. Member:** Give us a chance to support it.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. L. E. Cardiff (Huron North):** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Sinnott:** You are hard up now.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Speaker, I have risen to support the amendment, because we have been sitting all day for absolutely nothing. I was never in my life connected with any institution that had so very little respect for the value of time; and I would like that to sink in. If in private life we conducted our business in the same way business is conducted in the House of Commons, we would all go broke.

**Mr. Sinnott:** You should know.

**Mr. Cardiff:** The Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) has made an interjection. I would like to tell him that if he had brought this to the house in an orderly way after the matter was first mentioned on October 9, he would not be saddled with this kind of performance now.

**Mr. Coldwell:** "Performance" is right.

**Mr. Cardiff:** The fact of the matter is that many days during this session we sat waiting for some direction from the government to carry on.

**Mr. Sinnott:** Who are "we"?

**Mr. Cardiff:** They had nothing to offer us until the 65-day period, which is necessary for a session of parliament, was reached. No one was in a hurry.

**An hon. Member:** Order.

**Mr. Cardiff:** What is wrong with that?

**Mr. Fulton:** They don't like it.

**Mr. Hosking:** It has nothing to do with the hours of sitting.