

*Routine Proceedings*

Although I for one would have preferred the parliamentary recess to come up during the summer instead of the winter I make the wish that during those few weeks of adjournment members will take this occasion to meet with their voters, as I will be doing, and find out their views, their needs, their wishes so as to be able to make them known to the House during the next session.

[*English*]

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, because of the co-operation we have had recently I would ask that some consideration be given to a proposition that I have made for a number of years, namely, that we run our business on a much more organized basis, including a four-year term of parliament with regular breaks and regular periods of recess. I certainly endorse the opinion of the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise) that if there is to be an extensive break it should be at a more suitable time of the year. I am pleased with the co-operation that has taken place toward this end. It may well be we will be here for four years with a minority government. If so, we should work at achieving the greatest possible accomplishments.

I think a great deal of credit for the ability to co-operate in this House goes to the government House leader. We have had House leaders who have done a very good job of dividing this House, but this House leader has been very honest in his negotiations.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Peters:** He has often been tough, but never devious, not even to the extent of using the words "proroguing parliament" yesterday rather than considering a recess with the ramifications some of us knew about prior to 1968.

I suggest that consideration be given to another form of co-operation that can take place. I echo the sentiment of a number of members, namely, that when after long deliberations a committee has made a decision, that decision should not be allowed to die because a session has ended. If the ending of a session always produces the effect of killing all the work the committees have done, all the representations that have been made and all the work up to but not including the conclusion, then really all that work which members do in committee is lost.

This system has progressed gradually for the past five or six years. We have now reached the stage where there is considerable co-operation. With the exception of one committee in which the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) was involved when we were discussing agricultural stabilization, there has been a degree of co-operation that is worth while and is certainly in the best interests of this country. By cutting off all agreements, decisions and representations that have been made in committee we are probably losing something in our committees' system, namely, the co-operation we have witnessed in the past few days.

● (1650)

I suggest we give serious consideration to formalizing some of those decisions rather than using the obsolete methods we now use; that is, instead of having to set down a notice of motion to move concurrence in a report, the committee reports be put together into one final committee report, and concurrence given so that the decisions of the committees might be brought before the House for action by the government. This would be preferable to seeking a general agreement which allows some to be brought forward and prevents others from being brought forward because certain members are not as vocal as others.

I suggest to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) that he should give consideration to formalizing the reporting structure of the committees which is really a cosmos, if that is the right word, of the whole House in these various fields. I believe good and conscientious work has been done in the committees in the main, and if we cannot find some way of relating that work to what we do in this chamber, a method more effective than any we have found so far, much of this work is bound to be lost and all the co-operation and effort which has gone into the work of the committees will go for nothing.

To my mind, serious consideration should be given to this proposal in the spirit in which the various House leaders have been co-operating during the last two or three days. We must ensure that the work of the committees is not left in abeyance during the period after a motion to adjourn or to take a recess has been passed. A method must be found to ensure that these reports do not die on the order paper but are brought before parliament by some suitable means.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

Before putting the question or submitting the motion of the hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) to the House, may I remind hon. members that they are invited to Room 16. I shall be pleased to greet them and to wish them a pleasant parliamentary recess, a useful and fruitful stay with their families and among their electors.

[*English*]

Motion (Mr. MacEachen) agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to the order made this day, the House now stands adjourned to meet again at a time to be fixed by the Chair, after consultation with the government, for the purpose of dealing with any subsequent proceeding on Bill C-236 and for the giving of royal assent to certain bills.

At 4.55 p.m. the House adjourned to the call of the Chair, pursuant to special order made this day.