

**Mr. Churchill:** Of what use is the order paper, then?

**Mr. Speaker:** I must say I am not too clear on the other point raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, and if my impression is wrong perhaps he will correct me. I believe he suggested the motion is irregular inasmuch as there is no specific reference to those days on which the matter is to be considered—

**Mr. Churchill:** No; with deference, Mr. Speaker, I think my second question was overlooked because of the diversionary tactics of the Minister of Public Works. What I should like a ruling on is this. I quite agree that proper notice has been given, and I am not arguing that point at all. The rule has been followed. What I am asking a ruling on is this. After notice has been given and has appeared in *Votes and Proceedings*, has it not been the custom of the house, a custom which should be observed, that the motion for presentation to the house should appear on the order paper so that everybody is informed rather than have this oral reference back to an item in *Votes and Proceedings*?

**Mr. Speaker:** I was under the impression I had covered this particular point. I believe it is more than a custom that is involved here; this notice is given by virtue of standing order 41. However, this provisional standing order was specifically exempted from the provisions of standing order 41.

• (2:50 p.m.)

**Mr. McIlraith:** As I have indicated, the business committee has been entrusted by the house with trying to find a balance that would provide a timetable that would cover the two elements which must enter into the operations of the House of Commons if it is to perform the duty for which it is here. One of these elements is the opportunity for full and adequate discussion of proposals submitted by the government; the other is the taking of decisions upon proposals submitted by the government. The business committee having been unable to reach a unanimous agreement, it is now the responsibility of the government—as I have said, I think there is an obligation upon the government—to put before the house the amount of time the government thinks would be appropriate to provide adequately for the completion of the discussion of the measure, and to permit a decision to be taken on the measure consistent with the responsibilities of parliament.

*Proposal for Time Allocation*

I am not going to develop the argument further, because it must be apparent to hon. members on all sides that this measure has been very thoroughly discussed. Yesterday was the thirteenth day of debate on the committee of the whole stage of the bill; that is, the clause by clause discussion of the bill. Those 13 days of debate did not bring even clause 2 of the bill to a decision of the house, and it began to be readily apparent that the purpose of the official opposition was to inordinately delay this measure or to prevent a decision being taken.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister is imputing motives to the official opposition. He said it was evident that our purpose was simply to delay. Our purpose was to bring to the attention of this house, to the attention of the minister who has attended none of the debate during the last 13 days, and to the attention of the general public the weaknesses of this bill. Point after point was brought forward during the course of the debate, and new points entered into the argument during the last two days which have not been answered. The minister must withdraw his accusation.

**Mr. Speaker:** I hope the minister is not imputing motives. I think all members realize that nobody is trying to impute motives, and I am sure this is not what the minister is doing now.

**Mr. McIlraith:** If the sensitivities of the hon. member induce him to feel that I was imputing motives to him I would very happily withdraw the part of my remarks that caused him such offence.

**Mr. Churchill:** It was the general feeling over here, not only my feeling.

**Mr. McIlraith:** My remarks were not of such import as to cause him any offence. However, Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that the record of the discussion on this bill during the last 13 days is in cold print to be studied by all, not only by those who have been present to hear the debate. It is clear that a very long time indeed was being taken in the discussion of one clause of this bill. It seemed to the government in the exercise of its responsibility that such an inordinately long time was being taken to discuss this clause that it had a duty to give parliament the opportunity of deciding whether or not the House of Commons should take a decision on this bill. Under the British system—