

Procedure and Organization

Since this motion is not debatable its disposition will not be long delayed and we would adjourn very soon.

• (5:00 p.m.)

May I draw Your Honour's attention to citation 99 of Beauchesne's fourth edition, to be found at pages 88 and 89.

Some hon. Members: Dispense.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I do not know why hon. members opposite cry "dispense" so often. I realize they want to dispense with debate, but let us not dispense with the rules. Citation 99 (2) provides:

The term "intermediate proceeding" used in Standing Order 25—

That is the one that has just been read, which provides that a motion to adjourn cannot be to the same effect as a previous motion unless there be some intermediate proceeding.

—means a proceeding that can properly be entered on the *Journals*. The true test is that if any parliamentary proceeding takes place, the second motion is regular, and the clerk ought to enter the proceedings to show that the motion in question is regular. It is usual to alternate motions for adjournment of House and debate when a question is under consideration.

That citation clearly provides that although you cannot move the same motion immediately afterwards, motions that are different in effect can be moved; they can be alternated. I do not want to say it, but the process could go on all day, though it could not take place at this point because there is no debate to adjourn. If we were in the course of a debate then it would be in order, according to this citation, for someone to get the floor and move the adjournment of the debate. Then following that another member could move the adjournment of the house, and then another the adjournment of the debate, and so on.

Hon. members on the other side of the house found it amusing when I indicated that the time was 5.02. It is now 5.05, not four o'clock or 5.30. However, my point is that there is a difference in character and in nature between the two motions. The motion now before the house is the standard motion to adjourn, which by our rules is always in order. The other motion was a substantive motion fixing the time of debate at some time other than the point at which the motion was being debated. That motion is provided for under the terms of Standing Order 32(1) (p); it is debatable and it was debated.

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

The present motion is moved under Standing Order 32(2) which provides:

All other motions, unless otherwise provided in these standing orders, shall be decided without debate or amendment.

On that ground too this motion is a different kettle of fish. Both motions include the word "adjourn" in their terms, but the other motion is a substantive one that seeks to fix a point in time for a debate. The present motion is not debatable and calls for the adjournment of the house at this very moment.

In the same way, Mr. Speaker, we sometimes move motions to amend our rules, to change our hours of sitting, motions that are debatable but are different from motions to adjourn. Motions are sometimes moved—there is one on *Votes and Proceedings* now that we will come to in a few days—in connection with adjourning for the summer recess. There have frequently been occasions when this kind of motion has been moved, namely, that when the house adjourns this day it shall stand adjourned until a certain specified time. That is a substantive motion that is debatable, yet immediately after it is put and debated there is a motion moved that the house do now adjourn. As I say, both motions include the word "adjourn", but they are allowed to be moved one after the other because they are different.

I submit that the motion now being made falls within Standing Order 25. It is the ordinary motion to adjourn that is in order at any time. The motion presented by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) was a motion moved pursuant to Standing Order 42(1) and can be moved without notice. It is debatable under Standing Order 32(1)(p) and is a substantive motion. If the motion had carried as I sought to amend it, then the house would not adjourn now but would continue in session until 5.30.

I submit that this present motion is a different proposition. It is a basic, fundamental rule in every deliberative assembly that a motion to adjourn can be moved at any time. A motion to adjourn the house has not yet been moved during the course of today's sitting, and therefore I submit that the right of the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) to move the motion at this time is unchallengeable and that the motion should be put to the house.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I take it that the hon. member does not contend that there