

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know the hon. member has studied the matter very carefully. Would the hon. member be good enough to say what the minister could have done if the answer to his request for unanimous consent had been "no"?

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I should like to answer that question but I should like to answer it just a few minutes from now.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles: I know that the Minister of Trade and Commerce gets a great deal of laughter out of these fine points of order—

Mr. Speaker: May I ask all hon. members to compose themselves and let us have all discussion strictly related to the point of order.

Mr. Knowles: My reason for asking you to consent to my answering that question a little later was that I felt that I was justified in adding briefly one or two other references in support of my contention.

The next reference—and again I found the page because Your Honour was kind enough to give it to me last Thursday—involves Sir George Perley who had before the house a motion with regard to the purchase by the Canadian radio commission of certain C.N.R. radio stations. Sir George Perley asked the consent of the house to change the wording of his notice of motion so that he might be able to proceed with it. Similarly, if I may jump down to still another reference which Your Honour has drawn to my attention, the present Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) in 1951 asked the unanimous consent of the house to change the wording of a resolution respecting a piece of veterans legislation so that the house might proceed with it that day.

Mr. Speaker: I have cut short what I intended to add by way of support to the argument because I think that the point has been made and that it is crystal clear. You asked what could the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) do if he asked for unanimous consent to withdraw the first resolution and the house denied that consent. First of all, Mr. Speaker, may I ask with all respect whether that is a good question.

Mr. Speaker: May I interrupt the hon. member immediately because I did not ask him what the Minister of Trade and Commerce could do in this instance. He was referring to Mr. Dunning's asking unanimous consent and at that moment I was asking

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation
him what Mr. Dunning could have done if the house had refused him unanimous consent.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, what Mr. Dunning on that day could have done and what the present Minister of Trade and Commerce could have done long ago and thereby saved all this procedural discussion is very simple.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles: If my hon. friends want to refer to it, it is set out in citation 695 in Beauchesne's third edition. As I say, what the Minister of Trade and Commerce could have done in the first instance, if he had wished to do it, would have been to ask the house for unanimous consent to substitute the second resolution for the first one. I presume he was not too sure he would get unanimous consent for such a substitution and therefore did not ask it. But that does not release him from the responsibility of finding some way in which to get the first resolution off the order paper. The second way would be for a motion to be made that order number so-and-so be withdrawn and discharged. If the government feared that that process would run into difficulty—if there was fear that it might result in a procedural argument or a debate or a vote—there is another process which might be followed and it is very simple. It is set out in citation 695 and I suggest that Your Honour propose this procedure to the Minister of Trade and Commerce today. Citation 695 reads as follows:

695. The proceedings of a committee on a bill may be brought abruptly to a close by an order: "That the chairman do now leave the chair" or by a proof that a quorum is not present. The chairman, in such cases, being without instruction from the committee, makes no report to the house. A bill disposed of in this manner disappears from the order paper, though it can be revived by an order of the house.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member will look at page 3761 of *Hansard* he will find that I dealt with all possible alternatives to get rid of the first one, and that alternative was included. There are two others.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, you and I have at last reached a point of agreement. If you and I and the Minister of Trade and Commerce can just get together, maybe we can bring this discussion to an end. The matter is quite clear. For a moment today when the Minister of Finance moved the unusual motion that we proceed to the orders of the day, I wondered whether perchance he had not decided to do just this. I listened very carefully when orders of the day were called, thinking that maybe the Minister of