

*Business of the House*

gained such respect and have been held in such high esteem by all parties. Each party realized that at some time in the course of its existence it is going to be faced with the necessity of being on the opposition benches. The rules have been devised not only to facilitate progress of important matters through the house and to facilitate the conduct of public business, but to protect the rights of minorities.

Unless they have complete freedom of debate and of speech, without being subjected to tremendous pressure, physical pressure of lack of rest and so on, unless they have complete freedom how can minorities present, as they should be presented, the issues that confront us today?

I join with the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) in urging that the suggestion he has made that some compromise be arrived at be seriously considered.

The opposition is prepared to extend the hours of sitting, but is naturally opposed to a continuous sitting of the house. I have pointed out the dangers that might result from that. That is the situation and that is why I hope all hon. members will support the amendment which has been put forward. It does make an extension of time and will keep us within the normal practice of this house, and will give people an opportunity to continue debates without being compelled by pressure of time to give inattention to those subjects that are of such great importance to our country.

**Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak to the amendment now before the house, but before doing so, may I say that while I do not wish to lose the right to speak to the amendment, if that should be necessary, nevertheless I do wish to indicate that I am willing to resume my seat immediately I have an indication from those who have so far taken the other side that they are prepared to consider or would like to pursue the idea of the compromise suggestion that has been made. I would like to repeat that suggestion at the moment. It is that rather than each of the opposing sides in this discussion taking irrevocable and irreconcilable positions, with the result that this discussion on procedure would undoubtedly be extensively prolonged to the prejudice of the discussion on the merits of the legislation, which I know we all want to get at, we consider whether it is not possible to reach an agreement on some reasonable extension of the sitting time today. A suggestion has been made that it might be one or even two hours this evening, which would bring it up to midnight tonight. I would imagine that

with good will on both sides and with a genuine desire to discuss the merits of the legislation, rather than prolong the discussion of the procedural question, the merits of the legislation would be considered and that the business of the house would be expedited instead of prolonging the discussion of positions which at the moment are irreconcilable. If there is any indication at all that it is the desire at the moment to pursue that subject I shall be glad to yield my position. If not, I shall continue and speak on the amendment which is now before the house. I see that no one is anxious to take the floor which I have offered to yield.

**Mr. Casselman:** To whom are you referring?

**Mr. Fulton:** To the mover and seconder of the motion particularly, but if of course it is desired by them to discuss it further with anybody in any other part of the house, a private member or a minister, whether it be the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Sinnott) or the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Harris) or other members of their own party, or whoever it may be, all they have to do is to say so and we shall be glad to facilitate that discussion. In the meantime I will carry on speaking to the amendment, but I shall yield my place at any time that I have any indication from anybody in any quarter of the house that there is a disposition to follow up this offer of a reasonable compromise.

In the absence of such indication I do have certain views that I wish to express on the amendment now before the house. Summarized briefly, the purpose of the amendment is to limit the discussion to the hours of sitting, which have been agreed to and laid down as the most effective for conducting in an orderly fashion the business of the house. In that respect, I should like to point out, it has been quite possible in the past to conclude even lengthy discussions, often under pressure, within the ordinary hours which apply at the end of a session.

Our amendment, if adopted, would extend the ordinary hours by fifteen minutes. As I have said, we are prepared to consider a compromise by which they may be extended by two hours. But I point out, particularly to the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low), that it has been the case in the past that matters upon which his party has been vitally interested, upon which they have carried on concerted and vigorous attack, have been capable of disposition within ordinary sitting hours.

I am somewhat surprised that the memory of the hon. member for Peace River should