

House of Commons Procedures

amendments had not taken up the whole time allowed for consideration of motion No. 15, then Thompson men would step in with a third amendment; it would then be almost impossible for us to find a parcel of time to introduce an amendment and have it considered properly. Therefore, this means that we would have no time at all to move our amendment, to discuss it and to try to persuade the Government that the resolution should not be adopted.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that my answer is sufficiently clear to permit the Minister of Transport to understand our position in this regard.

• (8:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would feel, in view of the position taken on both sides and in view of the fact that we do not want to restrict debate and, above all, to restrict the right of the House to decide the matter, that this would meet his case? If a situation arose—I do not believe it would be likely to but the hon. gentleman is quite right to seek to secure his position—where he had not had a chance to move his amendment by the time of expiry for debating the motion, then we on this side of the House, indeed I hope the whole House, would agree that the hours of sitting would be extended on Thursday so that the hon. gentleman would thereby have the chance to move his amendment and have the House come to a decision upon it. We would be willing to have sufficient time added so that the hon. gentleman's desire to move an amendment to the proposal of the Government would not be estopped.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. Minister of Transport be willing to grant us next Monday for the discussion of this amendment we consider of the utmost importance?

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. Do I understand from the President of the Privy Council that I am to ask for the withdrawal of the amendment now before the House?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, before you do so there is a word or two I want to say. I am rather in favour of the view the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) has just expressed. I think he has a very legitimate cause of complaint. He does not often

agree with anything we do here, but we try at all times to forget some of his idiosyncracies when respect for Parliament is involved. I suggest to the Government that in so far as Government Order No. 15 is concerned that might be held over till Monday. What possible harm is there in such a course?

The suggestion that the hour question period shall be on Friday is not acceptable to us. Monday is a day when all of us come back full of vim and vigour, having been away for a couple of days and having developed a lot of ideas we want to bring forward. I suggest that the day when one hour is allowed for questions should be Monday rather than Friday.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, may I make just one proposal. Perhaps we could settle this tonight and not need to spend a day on the matter on Monday or Friday or extend the hours on Thursday. If the Government would agree right away to withdraw paragraph 2 of Government Order 15 concerning the right to appeal the decision of the Speaker, I think that would completely settle the problem.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, may I first of all deal with the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker). I thought I had made it clear in my statement that no agreement had been reached on which day of the week the one hour question period was to be provided. We have not had an opportunity to discuss this matter, other than to agree that it was not going to be on a Wednesday, and that is where the matter stood. I am quite agreeable to having the one hour question period on Monday instead of Friday, if anything turns on that.

As to the other point, it seems to me that it does not quite meet the consensus of this House merely to extend the time for dealing with this matter until Monday next. Based on the discussions we have had, and a great deal of time has been spent since the question hour trying to discuss it thoroughly, there will be ample opportunity for the hon. Member to put forward his amendment to provide that appeals from decisions of the Speaker shall be retained. I would hope that if there were an expression of views from representatives of other parties he would have adequate opportunity to put his amendment forward and have the matter voted on some time before the expiry period, say before Thursday night. We would agree to sit after ten o'clock on Thursday night long enough to permit him to put it forward, so he can feel he has some guarantee of his right to put the matter for-