

Motion to Extend Hours of Sitting

I suggest, with respect, to hon. members who have raised this point of order that the arguments brought forth are arguments in opposition to the motion itself. It seems to me that the motion should be put and that hon. members have brought arguments against it to the effect that in their view the motion should not be put and they would like to vote against it.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members can say no, but that is my interpretation of the situation. Hon. members suggest that this motion is—

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is not the substance of it.

Mr. Speaker:—government business. Obviously it is not government business. We are on routine proceedings and, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has quite rightly pointed out, we do not reach government business until orders of the day are called. These are routine proceedings and on routine proceedings this motion is quite in order. Hon. members may object to it. They may think that it is improper to bring it in at this time and that it may cause problems in future. That may very well be. However, so far as the Chair is concerned the motion is in order. It is submitted at the proper time and it therefore has to be put at this time.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council) moved:

That upon the adoption of this motion, and continuing in effect until Friday, June 26, 1970, the ordinary hours of sitting and daily adjournment shall be as follows:

Mondays	from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and from 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays	from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and from 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
Wednesdays	from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
Fridays	from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

That on Mondays, Government Orders shall be the first order of business taken up at 11.00 a.m. and that the daily Routine Proceedings be called at 2.00 p.m. on Mondays.

That the hour ordinarily provided for Private Members' Business on Friday shall be devoted to Government Business.

That proceedings on an adjournment motion, if any, on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays under Standing Order 40(1) shall be deferred until 11.00 p.m.

That when it is provided in any Standing Order that the business under consideration shall be forthwith disposed of or concluded in any sitting, the hour of daily adjournment for that purpose shall be as stated in part one of this order.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the President of the Privy Council has said that the motion need not come into effect today and in view of the fact it will come into effect today unless it is amended, possibly the simplest way out of this would be to have the motion stand until tomorrow morning when it would pass in matter of seconds.

Mr. Stanfield: I want to make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, that I have no objection to the hours proposed by the minister. My objection was simply on a question of principle. If the motion was put on any other day I would have no objection to it being passed forthwith.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): On the point of order, the motion has been put and discussed at great length. Why not finish it today and agree that it shall apply as of tomorrow?

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to extending the hours. However, I think the question that has been raised should be resolved by the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization as to the proper method of handling such motions on an opposition day. With this particular motion no harm is being done because there is no objection to the motion. However, if we set a precedent that on an opposition day the government can call a very controversial motion which the House will want to debate, the government could very effectively prevent the opposition making use of a day which has been allocated to it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In this instance, this is the last day to discuss supply. It is a very important day from the standpoint of the opposition. In the case of the motion now before the House, there is no desire to debate it extensively or even to debate it at all.

I suggest to Your Honour and to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization that some thought should be given to this matter so that what we are doing today does not become a precedent. Otherwise, on an opposition day in the future the government can call a motion, debate that motion the entire day, even by putting up its own mem-