

that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. CURRIE: Before that motion is put I would like to ask—

The CHAIRMAN: The motion that the Committee rise and report progress is undebatable. The hon. member may not proceed unless the Speaker withdraws his motion.

Mr. CURRIE: Perhaps Mr. Speaker will permit me to put a question to him. Did not the staff of the House of Commons propose a schedule of their own altogether different from this plan which has been brought down, and entirely satisfactory to all the officials of the House? Have not several proposals been put before the Speaker? A special committee would be able to decide which of these proposals is the best.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no doubt that the staff of the House could arrange a schedule which would be satisfactory to them, provided each officer determined the amount of his own salary.

Mr. CURRIE: It is not a question of salary at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Such a plan might have been considered by the Clerk of the House; possibly it was. But it must be borne in mind that this plan of organization has been prepared in a regular way by the deputy head of the House of Commons department, who is the Clerk of the House.

It was not prepared by me personally. I do not mean that I am not prepared to stand by it, for I am; I believe that on the whole it is a sound document. Although I am not able to give the hon. member exact information, I believe that a plan was proposed to the Clerk by the officers of the House.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. ETHIER: May I ask when the Committee will sit again?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order.

Progress reported.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SITTINGS.

Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Acting Prime Minister) moved:

That on Wednesday, the 14th of April, and all subsequent Wednesdays to the end of the session, the House shall meet at three o'clock p.m., that the sittings on such days shall in every respect be under the same rules provided for

[Mr. Speaker.]

other days, and that Government Notices of Motion and Government Orders shall have precedence over all business except Questions by Members and Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers.

Mr. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask my right hon. friend if he does not think it is perhaps a little early in the session to move this resolution. True, it relates to adding only Wednesday evening to the work of the House, but I would submit that all of us find an opportunity for reflecting upon the legislation before Parliament quite as important and helpful as having the time spent here for purposes of discussion. With committees meeting in the morning, and afternoon and evening sittings of this House, there is not much time left to hon. members who follow the proceedings of the House closely from day to day to give that thought which should be given to legislation of such great importance. One break in the week, on Wednesday night, affords something of a safety valve which, I think, is of real value to the work of Parliament. Speaking for myself, I think more and better work can be accomplished in the week by permitting the Wednesday evening interval, and particularly by avoiding late sittings at night. If we now begin sitting on Wednesday evening in addition to Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, hon. members after a late sitting perhaps on Monday and Tuesday would have no opportunity to make up for it on Wednesday evening, and with the possibility of a late sitting on Wednesday evening there would be extra fatigue during the next two days. In view of the work that Parliament has before it, I think my right hon. friend will admit that a good deal can be said for allowing this interval on Wednesday evening, so that hon. members may have an opportunity to give thought to the questions as well as participation in discussion when they come up in the House.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, the plea that my hon. friend has made is one which is quite well known to hon. members who have frequented the House from the time of Confederation down to the present. There always comes a time when the Government thinks that in order to get through with its business it is necessary to take a little more time for Government measures, and in due course they make that proposition to the House. It is then the time-honoured custom for the leader of the Opposition to make a more or less elaborate pro-