

*Question of Privilege*

in that connection, but I have the record here which shows that over and over again, when those who today sit—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, they speak of the danger to seals. I warn you over there that you are in difficulty too in this house. These are the trained seals of the government.

**An hon. Member:** Skin them alive.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I point out, sir, that what has happened results from the action of the government itself. The information I have is that there are some \$15 million unappropriated in the 1963-64 funds—

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Ricard:** Sit down. Don't keep interrupting.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Bigg:** You made a touching little speech yourself.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, I could have debated the merits of this question, but I deliberately refrained from doing that because I made a proposal, under privilege, that arrangements be made for an item to be called at a specific time in order that we could debate that item. I am interested in the right hon. gentleman's remarks, but it seems to me they would be appropriate to the item when we get to it. My suggestion is that we get to the item as quickly as we can.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, the same point of order that has been raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. My point of order is that before the members of this house agree to sit any extended hours today surely we are entitled to hear from the government the true story of the fund as it is at the present time. We have not had any statement from the government side as to what arrangements have been made to provide additional funds, and we understand that arrangements have been made. Also, we do not know how long the new arrangements will last, as far as the fund is concerned. I think it is absolutely necessary that we know this.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, may I speak to the point of order. I think there is really no difficulty, procedurally, on this. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made a very sensible suggestion that we should meet this evening—

**Mr. Knowles:** From eight to ten.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Yes, from eight to ten; that was a modification of my proposal. The hon. member raised, as a reason for so doing, the desirability of discussing a matter having to do with the unemployment insurance fund.

I think this was a reasonable suggestion, and I am sure the Minister of Labour would be very anxious to co-operate in dealing with that matter. But this is hardly the moment to deal with that question in itself. The only question now before the house is a suggestion as to our procedure for the balance of this day, and the suggestion is that we meet tonight. I have suggested from 7 to 11, but if there is some objection perhaps we can compromise and meet from 7.30 until 10.30. The only question now is for us to have an understanding that we will meet tonight, and I suggest 7.30 until 10.30.

**Mr. Knowles:** Eight to ten.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Very well; we will meet from 8 to 10, and at that point seek to deal with the matter before the house.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** If I may interrupt the right hon. gentleman, may I suggest I call the item "Presenting reports by standing and special committees" and then move on to motions; and if the Acting Prime Minister has any suggestion to make in particular with regard to the unemployment insurance fund or to hours of sitting, he can make it at that point. Then the Leader of the Opposition will be well within the rules and have ample opportunity, if that meets with the wishes of the house.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I was well within the rules a moment ago, if I may say so with deference. May I say I like that spirit of co-operation between the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the government; because I was informed this morning that the minister was going to make the suggestion. However, in that fine spirit of co-operation which always prevails between the N.D.P. and the government, it was to be pretended that the suggestion came from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**Mr. Knowles:** That is as false as you usually are.

[Later:]

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I agree that motions is the proper time to make the suggestion which was made by my hon. friend for Winnipeg North Centre. We have stated our respective positions, and I do