

*Routine Proceedings*

can ensue and the House can divide. They do not want to face the House on the issue of the Striking Committee report. That is their choice. The government has decided at this point to leave that report on the table.

It is normal practice in the House for negotiations to take place either among Whips or House leaders when there are problems. The Liberal Party House whip came to me on Monday of this week at five o'clock to discuss the issue. We had a very good discussion that did not result in any solution, but that is the nature of the place. Not every discussion results in a solution, but it is part of a process to resolve a problem.

I agree with my hon. friends, not just in the case of transport, but in the case of a number of committees, that there are problems. That is why the House in its wisdom set down a set of rules for a Striking Committee report within ten sitting days of the commencement of the fall session. That is why the Striking Committee reported. There is no problem with the Striking Committee report in respect to the composition of the House. All we have to do is accept that report and the place can function. All the Whips have the power to substitute. They can change members. It provides recognition for the independents in the House in proportion to their numbers relative to the size of the House. It is a good report.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, if you wanted to get into the issue of motivation, which some members seem to do, those who choose to block unanimous consent for the adoption of the report are indeed the group that want the committees to be in trouble. If they are apportioning blame, do not put it on government members. Put it clearly where it belongs, on those members of the opposition who will not accept the Striking Committee report.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not need to hear further argument.

The hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan has risen on a question of privilege. The hon. member for York West has clearly joined in on that question of privilege, and there may be others. The hon. member for Hamilton East spoke and I notice the hon. member for Hamilton West is here and he might want to say something about it, but I have a procedural matter before me.

I have listened carefully, of course, to the hon. member for Calgary West. I will consider carefully what

has been said here. I suggest in the meantime—and it is only a suggestion, I cannot force it—it might be wise if some discussions took place. The situation the hon. member complains about is, for whatever reason, at the moment the committee is not meeting and as a consequence not functioning.

I have some doubt as to whether it is a question of privilege. But because the committee has come to a complete stop, I am prepared to at least look at the matter carefully and report back to the House as soon as is appropriate. In the meantime, as I say, it might be resolved by further discussions. I thank all hon. members for the intervention.

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I appreciate the Speaker's concern. I appreciate that the Speaker wants to get on with the business of the day in this House. But what I must request that, when considering everything put before him thus far in the argument, he should also be clear of the facts of this case and not to be clouded by the issues raised opposite by the hon. member from the other party.

**Mr. Speaker:** My difficulty here is that I have the point.

One of the reasons that I feel I do not need to hear a lot of further intervention is that we may get further and further away from the basic of facts.

I have the point and I assured the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan that I understand completely the point he is making, which I might remind hon. members was made in a very concise and careful way.

I suggest to the hon. member for Hamilton West that, if there are further complaints or arguments that need to be taken, perhaps they could be taken in another place. I think perhaps that is enough discussion on the matter. Certainly, I have enough with which to report back to the House. I know hon. members would want to appreciate that.

**Mr. Keyes:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

As I understand it—you can clarify me of course if I am wrong—if I am prevented from doing my duty for my constituents in this place, whether it is in the House or in the form of a standing committee, I may rise and point out to the Chair that those privileges have been breached.