

*Business of the House*

**Mr. Drew:** That is quite right. We have been pointing out that it does relate to 10.30, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that our earlier efforts to find an hour that was suitable to the government did not meet with success, we are putting forward an hour that perhaps might meet with greater success, and I am bringing to my support responsible writers on parliamentary procedure to indicate that perhaps it is better to fix the maximum hour as 10.30 in the hope that the government, since they would not accept our earlier amendment, may accept this one.

**Mr. Cleaver:** Let us vote and find out.

**Mr. Drew:** I will read this:

It used to be the case, until 1888, that the house sat on until members were too tired to talk any more.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Drew:** I continue:

There was always a danger of some grossly healthy individuals arriving as fresh as paint about 10 o'clock, and keeping other members who had borne the burden and heat of the day out of bed until the small hours. Many a man has found his constitution seriously impaired by the strain of assiduous attendance until late hours. "Here I am again," writes Macaulay to his sister in 1831, "sitting up in the House of Commons until three o'clock five days in the week, and getting indigestion at great dinners the remaining two." Some famous statesmen seemed to be especially constituted for this sort of life: Palmerston, for instance, who was quite as fresh at three o'clock in the morning as at three o'clock in the afternoon; Sir Robert Peel, whose capacity for endurance must have been prodigious, and Gladstone, whose habit of keeping the house into the early hours of the morning roused members to constant fury.

Then there is a further discussion of certain of the rules. If I may, I should like to read one sentence more:

The survivors were limp and sleepy, and even the higher officials seemed in a state of abject misery.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I just comment on the point made. I do think that the extract the leader of the opposition read refers more to the main motion than to the amendment, as a reason why the main motion should not be adopted. May I ask him to direct his remarks to the amendment and endeavour to establish why the amendment should be adopted.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, I have put on record certain views which it seemed to me were indicative of reasons why the amendment is necessary; and after all, in order to demonstrate why an amendment which would prevent our sitting all night is necessary, it does seem to be desirable to bring forward arguments which support that proposition. The reason this amendment is before the house is that we have not yet succeeded in our earlier attempts at finding an hour that was satisfactory to the government.

**Mr. Cleaver:** You are only fooling yourself when you talk that way.

**Mr. Lesage:** That is easy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Drew:** I prefer to accept statements of a minister of the crown as to what the position of the government is in regard to this matter, and I had been hoping that perhaps the leader of the house might have indicated some willingness to deal with it.

**Mr. Gardiner:** He has not had a chance.

**Mr. Drew:** However, he has not done so. I am afraid my time is limited to put forward all the views that I should have liked to mention on this amendment.

**Mr. Cleaver:** Read some more magazines.

**Mr. Drew:** But I do want to say this, Mr. Speaker. No amendment that has been put forward today, and certainly not this motion by way of amendment, has been put forward in any frivolous manner.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Drew:** If I have met—

**Mr. Garson:** To what a level the grand old Tory party has sunk.

**Mr. Drew:** If I have met laughter with laughter it is simply because it seemed desirable to treat the levity of the government in that way instead of treating it with the anger that those who believe in the responsibilities of parliament should express in regard to conduct of this kind. What this amendment was directed to was to attempt to destroy the opportunity for debate by forcing hon. members to sit all night and until tomorrow, at a time when there is important business before the house.

**Mr. Knowles:** It is entirely against the rules of order to impute motives other than those stated by the person concerned. That was not the motive of the motion I moved at eleven o'clock this morning.

**Mr. Drew:** Mr. Speaker, —

**Mr. Stuart (Charlotte):** Ten o'clock.

**Some hon. Members:** Ten o'clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am able to see the o'clock.

**Mr. Drew:** After all, Mr. Speaker, I am simply indicating quite clearly what the obvious effect of the motion is, and I hope what has happened today will convince this government that the opposition has rights and that they are not going to submit to the big stick. However, I ask you to call it ten o'clock.