

only one amendment to clause 3, and there are other hon. gentlemen on this side of the House who would like to make other amendments to that clause. But we are precluded from doing so. The amendments which might be made might perhaps meet with the approval of the Prime Minister himself, and if they met with his approval I think he would accept them. But he cannot accept them if they are not made. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he wants to use the rule which was passed by this House in amendment to rule 17, or to abuse it. By using the rule he may pass clauses 2, and 3, if he likes, say to-morrow night, and then we could discuss the two other clauses. It could be done in four days. With the new rules he could dispose of this navy Bill in four days, and we could do so in a reasonable manner by discussing it with common sense, knowing exactly what the clauses would be. In all fairness I would ask my right hon. friend if he would not give that suggestion some consideration.

Mr. BORDEN: There is just one point I would like to understand. I do not see that my hon. friends would be in a better position if I followed the suggestion. I am most anxious to give every opportunity for discussion on this Bill and, if we have to use the rules, to use them in a reasonable way. Suppose I adopted the suggestion of my hon. friend, what would happen? We would take a day specially for clause 3 and we would still be confronted by the amendment which the hon. member for Welland (Mr. German) has moved. Unless we got that out of the way, we could not consider any further amendment that my hon. friend from Shefford would like to suggest, so, I do not think it would advance the situation at all. Would my hon. friend make clear to me what his ideas are in regard to it?

Mr. BOIVIN: My ideas in regard to it are these: With regard to clause 3, we have been given three hours to discuss it. If my suggestion were adopted by the Prime Minister, we would have about eight hours at least to discuss each clause of the Bill; that is to say, that in about thirty-two hours the Bill would go through. Then, if the Opposition took the whole of their eight hours in discussing the amendment which is before the committee, it would be their fault and it would not be the fault of the Prime Minister, if no other amendment is offered. But if he only gives us three hours and moves the adjournment of the discussion without any notice, it is absolutely impossible for the members on this side of the House to know when the discussion is going to be closed and it is therefore impossible to move any amendment.

Mr. BOIVIN.

Mr. BORDEN: As far as the time between now and two o'clock of to-morrow's sitting is concerned, I would be perfectly willing to give hon. gentlemen the absolute disposition of it as far as these clauses are concerned. They may use the time in any way they see fit. They can use it in regard to one clause or another and I will be content to abide by their views in that regard.

Mr. BOIVIN: It may not be possible for hon. members on this side of the House to agree amongst themselves.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BOIVIN: Just allow me to explain.

Mr. BORDEN: I understand that the hon. gentleman means that some hon. gentlemen may want to discuss one clause and some another.

Mr. BOIVIN: Some hon. gentlemen may attach more importance to one clause than to another.

Mr. BORDEN: I appreciate what my hon. friend says. In the meantime, perhaps he would be good enough to consult with hon. members on the other side of the House and see if they cannot come to some arrangement about it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BORDEN: My hon. friend from Shefford (Mr. Boivin) is making the suggestion seriously and I am trying to give him a serious answer. I would be very glad if he would do that. Perhaps we could go on and discuss clause 4, and I would be able to consult with him at six o'clock.

Mr. MACDONALD: Clauses 2, and 3, are before the committee now. When my right hon. friend the Prime Minister moved the postponement of the debate, he simply moved the postponement of the debate during that particular sitting of the committee. When the committee resumed again the whole Bill came before the committee in the shape in which it stood and, as a matter of right and as a matter of fact, it was the duty of the Chairman to take up the clauses that were not passed in the order in which they were before him. The fact that the Premier, two days ago, moved the adjournment of the debate on clause 2, does not mean that the adjournment is to take place indefinitely. This committee is seized of the whole Bill; clauses 2, 3, 4, and 5, are now before the committee. It is the duty of the Chairman to take up the consideration of clause 2, which is the first clause before the committee that has not been passed. Any motion the Premier made two days ago has no relevancy to this matter; the adjournment was simply an adjourn-