

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 20, 1967

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MOTION FOR TIME ALLOCATION RESPECTING
DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, in accordance with the provisions of standing order 15A, I made the proposal that the question of allocation of time for the committee of the whole stage and all remaining stages of procedure on Bill No. C-243, being item No. 107 on the order paper, be referred to the business committee.

The members of the business committee had discussions for three days on this matter, in accordance with the provisions of that standing order, and on Tuesday, April 18 I reported to the house that the committee had been unable to reach unanimous agreement on the question referred to it. On Tuesday, April 18 I also gave notice that on the next Thursday I would move for an order providing for the allocation of time. All this appears in *Votes and Proceedings* of that day. I now propose to make that motion.

As hon. members know, standing order 15A provides for a business committee which has the task of setting up a timetable for debate on a bill. The two-fold assumption behind that order is that all parties will want debate and discussion so that the thinking of the house and the country will develop and mature, and also that all parties will want the house to do its duty by rendering a decision regardless of what individual members may think that decision should be. It is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion. To devise an allocation of time balancing these differences is precisely the task assigned to the business committee. That task it sought to perform, but it was unable to reach the necessary unanimous agreement.

Therefore it now becomes the right and indeed the responsibility of the government under standing order 15A to take the step of providing the opportunity for the house to make a decision on the additional time the house should take in further discussion of the remaining stages of this bill.

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Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. What stage are we at now in the proceedings of the house? I understand that Your Honour called motions. I do not see anything on the order paper to indicate that the minister has an opportunity to speak at this time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is quite right. I have been expecting the minister to make a motion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What has the minister been talking about?

Mr. McIlraith: It has become clear—

Mr. Starr: Order.

Mr. Monteith: Make your motion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that he make a motion. I understand there may be a debate on the motion—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: —and perhaps the minister can leave his comments until then.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill):

• (2:40 p.m.)

That an order be made allocating the time on the committee of the whole stage and all remaining stages of procedure on Bill C-243, an act to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof (as amended), being government order No. 107 on the order paper, and that the motion will provide that two days shall be allocated for the completion of discussion on the committee of the whole stage on Bill C-243, an act to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof (as amended), and that one day shall be allotted for the completion of the third reading stage on the bill.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on another point of order. I understand fully that last Tuesday the minister gave notice of this particular motion, and that it appeared in *Votes and Proceedings* to which I drew attention yesterday. However, it does not appear on today's order paper. I wonder, sir, whether you would give a ruling on this question. Is it permissible simply to give notice of motion