

Business of the House

no undertaking was given that they would be concurred in. The most that was done was to indicate there would be an opportunity to move at least one of them later this day. Your Honour seems to have noted that.

Perhaps we do have a little time to fill in while the hon. gentlemen in the other place are disposing of the business on which we have spent the last two days. Whatever the result, nothing would be prejudged if we were to have some debate while these other things are taking place. I am sure no one wants to ram anything down anyone else's throat, but it may just be possible that in the course of the debate the compromise which the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre would like to see made would be made by unanimous consent. That would be possible, as it always is in the house. If it is not possible, I am sure no one wants to force anything on the house. Certainly I would not want to be a party to doing so. There is no reason for not occupying the time we shall have to wait here by letting the hon. member move the motion and then, perhaps, recognizing the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. He could explain his views, and this might be helpful in any event.

Mr. Churchill: I explained my views to members of the committee the other day. They were rejected. I do not propose debating them at two o'clock in the morning. The compromise I have suggested is well known to the members of the committee. They did not accept it. I do not accept their suggestion. Consequently I propose calling it ten o'clock and bringing this session to a close.

Mr. Aiken: May I point out to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre that the compromises he suggested were made.

Mr. Churchill: They were not made.

Mr. Aiken: Yes, they were accepted. If the hon. member would read the report he would see.

Mr. Churchill: That, Mr. Speaker, is a distortion of the truth. My compromises were not accepted.

Mr. Speaker: May I point out that we seem to be slightly confused. There are two reports to consider, the 18th and the 19th. If I understood the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) correctly he is disturbed about the 19th report, but I thought there was an agreement on the 18th report. Is that a correct statement?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Mr. Churchill: It is not quite correct, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McIntosh: May I call your attention to the fact that it is past ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Pickersgill: Before the hon. member takes precipitate action of that sort, may I say this: If I am correctly informed, Your Honour has a message from government house and it would perhaps be a discourtesy to the representative of the crown if we were to call it ten o'clock at this point. If there can be no agreement at this time we could perhaps do what is usual in these circumstances and suspend the sitting. I do think it would be an unprecedented thing, when all of us know that there is a message from the crown, even if it has not yet been read, to act in the way suggested. I think it would be discourteous not to receive it.

Mr. McIntosh: As long as they do not talk about the reports any more.

Mr. Knowles: Despite the remarks of the hon. member who has just taken his seat I wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether I could ask this question: Is there not something which could be done, some way which could be found, whereby we could have a discussion on these two reports, if not tonight, then perhaps on Monday morning? I recognize that the plan is to prorogue this session tonight, but speaking as one of the 15 members of Your Honour's committee, I would remind hon. members that these two reports have the unanimous support of the committee, and I think I can speak for all members of the committee when I say we feel it would be most unfortunate if there were no opportunity for the house to make its decision. The house may reject our work, but surely there should be an opportunity for this decision to be made. We feel that if a decision is not made in this session we shall not have an opportunity to try out in the next session the experiments which we propose. I know this upsets the plan to prorogue tonight, but we do not know how long they will be in the other place and it is almost two o'clock in the morning. What about a short recess to see if we can save the work which the committee has done?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can assist the hon. member. I do think the suggestion that this message should be read is a correct one. Then we could probably adjourn at the call of the Chair.