

a manifest convenience in that course, and certainly there is an equally manifest inconvenience in any course which would require them only to take effect after the first ten or twenty days of the ensuing session. I leave it to the House to consider what is best to be done.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I was not able to attend all the meetings of the committee, but I observe there are some of the rules which certainly require further consideration. I can see no harm in allowing them to stand over until next session. No embarrassment could arise by having them take effect some time next session. Looking over them, I find rule fifty-seven practically is predicated on the assumption that private Bills may go through this House without a petition being presented. We should have a petition presented before any Committee should consider the Bill. If we adopt this rule it will strengthen the belief which is growing more and more every year, that parties can present a petition in the House of Commons and get a Bill through there, and when the Bill comes here it will as a matter of course be referred to the Standing Orders Committee. We should adhere to our rules and insist upon having a petition presented here; and if the petition is not presented at the right time, we should require them to go through the form of petitioning for leave to petition. I see no inconvenience to result from letting the rules stand until next session.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—I am in precisely the same position as the hon. member from Ottawa. It has been my misfortune not to be able to attend the meetings of this committee, other duties having made greater demands on my time. I fully concur in the remarks made by the hon. member from Amherst, and also, in the remarks made by the hon. member from Ottawa, so far as the adoption of the report is concerned. It would be highly inconvenient to bring a new set of rules before the members of the House with a view to having them come into force in the middle of a session, and yet from what has just fallen from the hon. member from Ottawa, I think it is equally important that we should not adopt these rules until the next session of Parliament. Then, after a thorough consideration of them during the recess, if we think proper to adopt them next session they could be made to take

effect from the beginning of the second session after this. There is no difficulty in that. I do not think it is proper to discuss the merits of these rules now, but I am strongly impressed with the correctness of the views of the hon. member from Ottawa in reference to the passage of Bills through either House without having been petitioned for, the petition in each case setting forth what is required and what is intended by the Bill. Private interests may be materially affected by the omission of anything from a petition, and I think the rule in the House of Commons, in the Private Bills Committee as well as in the Railway Committee, has invariably been, unless good reasons were shown for departing from it, not to make any concession in a Bill that is not embraced in the petition, the object being to prevent the possibility of any person or any interest being taken by surprise. The suggestion, I understand, before the House at the present moment is simply to accept the report and to consider on Saturday next as suggested by the hon. member from Halifax, whether he should proceed with it this year or let it stand until next session.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—Had we not better take it up now? I think we had better decide now whether these rules should be dealt with next session or not. On Saturday we shall have a very thin House. I am only surprised that there are so few alterations in the rules. I thought there would be a great many more. No doubt the Committee looked carefully through them and it shows that the rules were not so defective as some of us thought they were. As to the Contingent Accounts Committee, I think it will be more workable with the reduced number, and the public interests will be more carefully guarded. It is better to move that the consideration of the rules take place next session. It is useless to go to the expense of putting this in book form when it is before us in the most convenient form.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—I would suggest that a sufficient number of these copies be printed so that each member of the Senate may have a copy.

Hon. Mr. POWER—That was the understanding. The opinion of the House, so far as one can gather it from the remarks which have been made by hon. gentlemen, is in