

*Conduct of House Business*

will be a safeguard put in to protect the priority of debate of such a motion when it is transferred to Government orders.

The next amendment provides for the removal of the right of appeal to the House from the decision of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole. It is consequential on the removal of the appeal from the Speaker's decision. The appeal is from the Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House to the Speaker, but there is no appeal from the Speaker to the whole House.

Paragraph No. 10 concerns the restructuring of the committees of the House. This change in Standing Order 65 deals only with the restructuring of committees and does not deal with other matters that many Members might think could be dealt with in relation to committee reports and the whole management of committees.

• (9:00 p.m.)

In other words, all that is sought to be dealt with in this paragraph is the creation of a new structure for the Standing Committees, one that would enable them better to receive the estimates of the various departments for consideration and which would better describe them in the light of changes that have taken place in legislative practices over the years since 1927.

There is one thing to be noted, that except for the Standing Committee on Agriculture the other committees are reduced in membership to 24 persons. It appears as 22 in the order before the House but at the request of some Members opposite we propose to change that to 24 if this meets with the wishes of the Committee of the Whole House.

Then there was another amendment suggested. It will be seen that the proposed new Standing Order provides that at the commencement of each session a Special Committee consisting of seven Members shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to prepare and report "with all convenient speed" lists of Members to compose the Standing Committees of the House. It has been suggested that the words "with all convenient speed" be replaced by the words "within ten sitting days of the appointment of the committee." That change is quite agreeable to the Government and we are quite willing to bring forward an amendment along that line.

That really is the substance of the proposal before the committee. I think I have indicated all the amendments, save and except the undertaking we gave earlier in the debate that when the changes are made they will

be on a trial basis for the balance of this session and one complete session hereafter.

**Mr. Knowles:** I think there was one other that was discussed, unless the Minister stated it and I missed it. Was there not general agreement that the provision for extending the hours of sitting at night would be amended so as to provide that in such an extended sitting we would only deal with matters already before the House? In other words, it would not be in order to call some new item during the extended sitting?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes, that is right, and I am sorry I omitted to mention it. It was intended, where we extend the sittings beyond ten o'clock, that no new or other measure could be brought before the House during that extended time. In other words, the time would be for the purpose of clearing up the item of business before the House or any subsequent stage of that item of business.

There was one other agreement that I should repeat. Dealing with the proposal for the length of the question hour, earlier this evening I undertook that we would bring forward an amendment to provide that on Monday of each week the question period would be one hour in length instead of the half hour proposed in order 15 now before the committee.

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have to tell you how glad I am to be first to speak on behalf of the opposition. This is the honour bestowed upon me tonight, and I take this opportunity to make the necessary comments with regard to the resolution now before us.

First of all, I wish to thank the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), who stated that he agreed with us on this point and willingly accepted all the conditions we had laid down, so that we could move our amendment first.

If I am not mistaken, he added that, although he did not always agree with our idiosyncrasies, tonight he supported our demand. I think we have discovered an idiosyncrasy in him, seeing how easily he accepted all the conditions laid down. Surely it is because he realized he was in a mess or in hot water. After having made a filibuster for 11 days and realizing that nobody paid attention to the incoherent utterings of the members of his party in this regard, in short not quite knowing how to find a way out, he was delighted to agree to a last-minute com-