

would be a proper procedure. There is no reason why this House should sit after eleven o'clock; if there is some matter of great public importance under discussion, by unanimous consent we could arrange to sit later. Years ago we used to consider that unless we kept our stores, warehouses and other places of business open from early in the morning until eight or nine o'clock at night we could not get along, but during the war, when help was scarce, our ideas changed. To-day we are opening at eight o'clock and closing at five o'clock, and our business is just as great as it was before. It may be, as one hon. member has said, that we push through a lot of business after eleven o'clock at night; that may be all right for the party in power if they can catch the opposition asleep but it is not the best thing for the country and we should consider the people. It is not often that I disagree with the hon. member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. Edwards) and agree with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), but in this case I agree with him absolutely. In this House business administration should apply as in any other big business. We drift along in a lackadaisical way, doing nothing and discussing radical resolutions which should never be introduced here. In revising the rules of the House I would suggest that something be done to eliminate matters of that kind altogether. I am not referring to any hon. member in particular, but I think we all waste time, with the exception of myself, and it is a crime to lose the time and waste the money of the country sitting here week after week when we should not be here at all.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I would just assure the hon. member that I will give him every support if he initiates a strike in this House for an eight hour day.

Mr. MARCIL: I should like to support what has already been said by the other members of the committee. These rules are in many cases compromises; we would have shortened the work of parliament still more had we been able to agree, but in that way we did bring in an unanimous report. We must not only consider to-day's sitting; a late sitting to-day means that the committee to-morrow morning will not meet. The committee on privileges and elections met three times last week and each time lacked a quorum. I have had the honour of sitting in this House for twenty-nine consecutive sessions, and I have been a member of three committees appointed to revise the rules; I filled the position of Deputy Speaker for four years and of Speaker

for three years, and I say without fear of contradiction that with three parties now in the House we should accept these recommendations. We have considered the rules in the British House, where the so-called midnight rule applies, and I am sure that in our common sense and anxiety to give the country the best we have and with our desire to get through our work as expeditiously as possible and in as businesslike a way as possible, the majority of this House will be in favour of the adoption of these changes. My experience in the old days was that we never settled any important question before five or six o'clock in the morning, twenty-five or even fifteen years ago all the important divisions were taken at about that hour. Then closure was brought in; that was a blessing in disguise and helped the government of the day, but it was also a great help to the opposition. We have had debates in this House which lasted for a fortnight, beginning at three o'clock Monday afternoon and ending at midnight Saturday night. Men were so exhausted that they lay down here on cots; some of them brought pillows and we were a laughing stock; we were nick-named "sleeping beauties", and people came to gaze upon the results of our foolishness. I sincerely hope this report will be adopted; the eleven o'clock closing rule can always be suspended, but when it is adhered to we will feel fit to do something the next day, and it must be remembered that all the important work of a member of parliament is not done in this chamber. We all belong to committees, to which important measures are referred, and I am sorry to say that as it is many members do not attend the meetings of those committees as regularly as they might. When we have late sessions the committees meeting the next morning are not attended, and as a consequence important matters are neglected and the work is not satisfactory. As I have said, the committee has brought in a compromise report in the best interests of all parties, and I hope it will be supported by the House. These rules will come into effect next session, and if we find that we have made a mistake we can then correct any rule we so desire. For the present I think the House should do this committee the compliment of adopting the report.

Mr. POWER: Mr. Chairman, the surest evidence that late sittings have not been injurious to the health of the members is the eloquence and mental ability of the hon. member who has just resumed his seat and who has been a member of this House for twenty-nine years. If he has been able to remain through these long sittings for twenty-nine