

*Procedure Committee Report*

hon. member for Greenwood to be reasonably brief, if I can follow past experience, and I have every hope in the world that following that hon. member an opportunity to speak will be afforded the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, may I just say that I think I am the senior member of this party to whom you referred. I decided not to speak at this time, but had I known the Prime Minister was going to speak, and had I been aware of some of the things he was going to say, I certainly would have taken the opportunity of participating. I will have to reserve my right to do so later.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few remarks on the point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Would the hon. member please go ahead because we have exactly 25 minutes left for this debate and it is an important debate?

**Mr. MacInnis:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but the snake pit is acting up again. On the point of order, I should like to draw Your Honour's attention to another occasion when I raised a similar point of order at which time you, sir, informed me that there was no such thing as a list. Tonight you have referred to such a list, sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am under the impression, which I think is correct, that there is no official list. Being just an ordinary human being it is of assistance to me to have a sheet of paper before me on which to place the names of members in sequence who wish to speak. This information is for my own benefit in order that I may give some direction to this house.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, exactly on that point, when I referred to that piece of paper on another occasion I was told by the Chair that it did not exist.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. member for Greenwood continue?

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, I shall try to follow your suggestion that I speak briefly, so the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona will have an opportunity to speak this evening. I was suggesting that I did not believe there are any members of this house who are not concerned with making this house more effective in its service to the public.

This committee report and its implementation at an early date will make a very great contribution to the effective functioning of the house.

I am a relatively new member here and, though I cannot claim to be one of the younger members, I have been filled from time to time with a feeling of impatience and frustration at what seemed to me to be the slow pace of reform in debate. I believe there is a tremendous reservoir of talent and ability in this house that is not adequately employed in the whole process of parliament. The effective functioning of a committee system such as is envisaged in this report will add tremendously to the contribution which all members of this house, and certainly private members, can in effect make to the functioning of parliament.

I should like to call attention to some of the recommendations in this report which I think will be of assistance in this field. There is for example a recommendation that there be established a standing committee on the subject of citizenship, immigration and legal affairs. For a long time we have heard promises by various ministers in respect of changes in the law regarding immigration. We have heard many criticisms about the administration of that particular department, and no doubt this is difficult; but I believe that the development through a committees system, of a group of experts made up of members of all parties would assist the attainment of effective, efficient legislation, and in a quicker manner. A committees system in that field could review the regulations which are passed, and which are even more important than the law itself. I believe this could assist the government in carrying on in that particular field.

There is also reference in this recommendation to the fact that this committee would consider legal affairs. We have a situation in this house in which private members often present good ideas in the form of private members bills. My colleague, the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond (Mr. Prittie) has put forward a proposal to amend the criminal law in regard to birth control. I have put forward a proposal in regard to a change in the ancient laws regarding criminal insanity. If we had a committee which could review those proposals, sifting out the bad ones, I believe we could receive excellent recommendations for reform in various fields which would, in turn, make parliament infinitely more effective.