

and when we have our obligations in the afternoon in the house, and sometimes in committee in the afternoon as well, and when our work in the house in the evening continues until 10:30.

Now, today we are faced with a unanimous recommendation of the steering committee. Mr. Herridge has quite manfully explained that he believes now that the decision he took was not the correct one on that committee.

I must acknowledge, as you yourself told me this morning privately, that the representative of our party, Mr. Crestohl had agreed to it. Mr. Crestohl unfortunately is not here today, and we were not aware of the decision of the committee until we got the notice.

Now, I do not think it is in the interest of the careful and the responsible discharge of our functions for this committee to meet at one o'clock. If we were facing the last few days of a session, or if the minister, whose preoccupations are great, had asked, in order to allow him to appear before the committee and to carry out other obligations, that we meet these abnormal hours, it would not be possible to register the same objection. But surely that is not the situation which confronts us.

We cannot possibly finish the work of this session before the end of June, in my judgement, and we cannot finish it then if we are going to discharge our work in the house and in other committees properly.

This morning there were five committees that met. In addition to that, we had a party caucus meeting. I have a meeting at two o'clock,—as we have almost every day—in connection with the work of the house. We are now not only to meet today but to meet as well on Wednesdays, and Thursdays at one o'clock. I suggest that this is asking too much of us.

It is not that we, as members of parliament, would want to shirk our responsibilities. None of us on this committee would want to shirk his responsibilities on this committee or in the house. I simply say that this recommendation of the steering committee should not be accepted, and that we should not be called upon at this hour, particularly at this time. I strongly urge that consideration be given to the physical capacity of those who want to discharge their obligations. Therefore I would ask that this recommendation of the steering committee be not concurred in.

The CHAIRMAN: I see Dr. Fairfield, and then Mr. Vivian and Jack McIntosh.

Mr. FAIRFIELD: Mr. Chairman, I very seldom agree with the first speaker, Mr. Martin, but at last this gives me an opportunity, and I have to state that I agree with him.

For three days in the middle of the week, when we should have an opportunity to at least have a bit of lunch, and a little rest, perhaps, or to do some of our work, we are called upon to sit in here when we should be actually—speaking from the viewpoint of a medical man—at least having a bit of rest.

Now, in so far as the other part of it is concerned, I think there are probably other days when we could sit while the house is sitting. If this requires a motion, I shall be glad to make it. But I do disagree with this recommendation of the steering committee very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vivian, and then Mr. McIntosh.

Mr. VIVIAN: I moved the motion to bring the recommendation of the steering committee properly before this committee. I understand that the members of the steering committee rendered a unanimous report on the hours of sitting, on the basis of information then supplied to us. I would agree completely with the member for Essex East, that it is a matter of arrangement and convenience. But there is a matter of what is more convenient. I think that