

*Procedure and Organization*

hour was under way at that time. I think he would also want it to be known that debate on government business does not take place during that hour.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Speak on the subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** Stop your filibustering.

**Mr. Speaker:** I trust the hon. member will keep to the subject matter of the debate.

**An hon. Member:** Tell the truth.

**Mr. Deachman:** I believe the point I am making affects all of us who are interested and are taking part in this debate. While it is a matter which might have been raised as a question of personal privilege, I think it can be straightened out on the record by saying that according to long-standing custom we really do not look for a quorum during private members' hour. With respect to hon. members, this is not done.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** Sit down!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Crouse:** Mr. Speaker is on his feet.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members are not helping the Chair, and I find the situation most unbecoming. Hon. members are not assisting the Chair at all by conducting themselves in this way. I invite the house—

**An hon. Member:** Adjourn the house.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I invite hon. members to co-operate with the Chair and I invite the hon. member who has the floor to limit his remarks to the subject now under consideration.

**Mr. Deachman:** I do not want to embarrass the hon. gentleman or his party further; therefore I will address myself to the subject of the debate.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** You should have been here yesterday afternoon.

**Mr. Deachman:** The amendment to the motion before us seeks to return the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to the committee with instructions to delete proposed Standing Order 75c. This would mean, of course, that

we would have to give up the idea that the House of Commons can come to agreement with regard to the programming of its work when it is agreed by a majority of the members of the house that a particular legislative measure should be programmed. The effect of the amendment would be that we would have to give this up.

This was not the sense of the committee report. The committee report recommended a way in which we would move logically forward step by step to the point where, failing to reach party agreement, at least the majority of members of the House of Commons could vote to determine whether time should be allocated for any step of the legislative procedure. The sense of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) yesterday does not really meet the sense of the report of the committee as it was made to the house. If the report is to be sent back to the committee for revision I think it is desirable that this be done in the form of a resolution enabling the majority of members of the house to allocate the time for a legislative stage, and not send it back to the committee with instructions from the house to negate the report of the committee by striking out 75c. If the report is sent back to the committee it must be made clear that a majority under 75b would always include the representative of the government party which has the responsibility for legislation and represents a majority and the will of the people who have sent us to this house. In fact, it should include not only the representative of the government but also the representative of the official opposition.

● (12:20 p.m.)

This idea was put forward yesterday in the remarks of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid). It flows from a suggestion made by the hon. member for Peel South (Mr. Chappell). I want to refer to the remarks made yesterday by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid) when he said:

I am sorry if I was not clear. What I said was that under proposed rule 75b the Leader of the Official Opposition ought to be recognized. The two minority opposition parties should not be in a position of forcing their decisions on this house, along with the government, on the Official Opposition. The Leader of the Official Opposition, being a responsible officer of this house, should have an important role to play under this proposed rule. I point out that here I do not speak for the President of the Privy Council or the government.

Following upon that suggestion I wish to introduce in a moment an amendment to the