

Business of the House

I will go back for a few minutes to the question he asked of me regarding the offer which was made this afternoon. The offer was in the same terms as the amendment which we are now debating, namely that we would try to reach a compromise on the suggestion that the house sit beyond its usual hours, or until twelve o'clock tonight. The member for Winnipeg North Centre knows quite well that offer was made unconditionally when it was first expressed by the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming). There were no threats attached to it, and when I repeated the offer I did not attach a threat to it. I simply said I had some remarks to make on the motion before the house, but that I would gladly resume my seat immediately if there was any indication from any of those in other parties of a desire to discuss this compromise. If there was no such indication then I must be forgiven for not sitting down, because if I sat down I would lose my right to continue speaking. If there was to be no discussion of the compromise, I desired to say a few words on the amendment; that was the substance of my remarks earlier.

Mr. Knowles: The hon. member went farther than that.

Mr. Fulton: How the hon. member can read any threat into it, I do not know. If he cares to take the attitude that anyone who interferes with or opposes his motion is threatening him, then of course he can draw that conclusion. I think neither the hon. members in the house nor the people in Canada generally will go along with him in his assumption that what he suggests to the house should be accepted without discussion, without delay, and in all due humility. If the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre expects that result to follow, I can assure him he is bound to be disappointed.

I stress the folly of this procedure and the unwisdom of the refusal to accept a reasonable offer, which I point out was made as early as 2.30 this afternoon. It is all very well for hon. members to say we are being unreasonable in asking them to accept it when there would be only four hours left until twelve. I repeat that the offer was first made at 2.30 this afternoon when there would have been about seven and one-half hours, and the member for Winnipeg North Centre is well aware of the fact that the amendment his party has indicated they wish to submit to Bill No. 36 would have been discussed.

Mr. Speaker: I think we should try to keep away from the bill and discuss the amendment.

Mr. Fulton: Very well; I shall try to do so. The purpose of my remarks at that time was [Mr. Fulton.]

to refute the suggestion of the member for Winnipeg North Centre that it was unreasonable for us to make this offer because there would be only four hours left. There would have been seven and one-half hours, and he knew there would have been time for his party to discuss the amendment which they had in mind. We can see, therefore, just how unreasonable he and his party are in rejecting an offer when they say they wanted to discuss the amendment. They have rejected a reasonable compromise which would have cleared the way for them to discuss that all this afternoon and this evening. Mr. Speaker, I feel that there was never a clearer example of double talk than that in which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has just indulged.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The words "double talk" are not allowed.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Fulton: If you say the words "double talk" are not allowed, Mr. Speaker, I shall withdraw and say there has never been a clearer example of saying one thing and meaning another.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a definitely unparliamentary statement to make about another hon. member.

Mr. Fulton: I think probably the member for Winnipeg North Centre knows what I mean, and if you say the expression is unparliamentary I shall not repeat it—

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Fulton: —and I shall withdraw. As I was saying, the unwisdom of the refusal to accept this motion was demonstrated when the member for Winnipeg North Centre said he could not accept it because there would not have been time to discuss the amendment which his party offers, and in which he is interested. I believe the straits in which the hon. member finds himself in his attempt to justify his rejection of this offer, and the situation in which the house finds itself, follow the attempt to apply the big stick, either by way of the motion offered this morning or in the threat uttered by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) himself. I trust the house will accept the reasonable suggestion we have put forward in our amendment and reject the motion of the member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. F. E. Lennard (Wentworth): I rise to speak for a moment on this amendment, and I do so merely for the purpose of pointing out that I do not think due consideration has been given to the *Hansard* reporters. There are seven regular *Hansard* reporters, but for