

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I should like to ask my hon. friend whether the committee had a meeting this morning.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE—I was asked to call a meeting of the committee this morning and I called one.

Hon. Mr. Miller—At what time was it held?

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—Eleven o'clock.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE—I was asked to call the meeting at about four o'clock yesterday.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I think it was due, in courtesy to me, and any member of this House, under the circumstances, to give me notice. I made some objections to the appropriation for a summary report yesterday, and I think that the hon. gentleman should have informed me of the meeting of the committee to take place to-day. Under the circumstances, the report should not be pushed, and unless the hon. gentleman will withdraw it he may possibly not be able to get it through before the prorogation this evening.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE—I do not know whether I understood the hon. gentleman from Richmond correctly, but I believe he has said that it was discourteous to him not to give him notice that the committee would meet this morning. As far as that goes, I do not believe the chairman of the committee is bound to give notice to Senators, who are not on the committee, to attend its meetings.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Of course there is no right whatever; it is a matter of courtesy.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE—Had I thought that the hon. gentleman would persist in his opposition, I would certainly have called his attention to the fact that the committee was to meet, but I was told that he would not oppose the re-engagement of Mr. Smith, though he did not concur yesterday in the report. That being so, I thought it was not necessary to give him notice. As to the report itself, I believe the hon. gentleman might fairly do what has been done for two or three days past; that is, not insist upon a strict adherence to the rules, but let the House say whether they will adopt the report or not. I believe that the

hon. gentleman will not make opposition to the report but leave it to the House to decide. I am ordered by the committee to submit the report to the House and I do so.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I do not wish the House or the hon. gentleman to infer that I considered I had any right to an intimation from the committee of the time of meeting, but what I did mean to convey was that, having raised an objection yesterday, it would have been ordinary courtesy to have given me notice. The hon. gentleman might have requested the clerk to let me know when it was to be held. Under similar circumstances I would have treated the hon. gentleman with the same courtesy. With regard to the other point, that the hon. gentleman did not anticipate any further action this year and looked forward to some action being contemplated by the committee next year for a summary, I said if there was a feeling in the House to have a summary I would not oppose it; I would not set up my own views in the matter, in opposition to even a considerable minority of the House, but I find a good many complaints with regard to the unsatisfactory character of these summary reports, and I felt it my duty yesterday to speak as I did. With regard to the proposed suspension of the rule to allow the report to be read immediately, there is no discourtesy whatever in my insisting upon the report standing over until the next sitting of the House. There is to be another meeting of the House this afternoon, and I shall decide in the meantime whether I shall take steps to see that the report does not go through, because if it is intended to force the report through, I can tell the hon. gentleman there are plenty of means within my reach to prevent it. I am not so unfamiliar with parliamentary rules and practice as not to know how to employ those means, and I advise the hon. gentleman to let the matter stand over until the next meeting of the House.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE—I know the hon. gentleman has a perfect right to oppose concurrence in the report which I have moved. I said a minute ago that I thought, under the circumstances, the hon. gentleman would not insist upon the view he has taken, and if he merely desires to consider the matter further, it is only right that the re-