

*House of Commons Procedures*

in that they will be applicable for the balance of this session and for one session thereafter on a trial basis only. I respectfully submit that we should proceed in that way, try out the suggested proposal and see if it will work. I am quite confident that it will. I sincerely believe that Members will like it much more than the present system under which they are actually forced to neglect that part of their work which involves their being back in their constituencies, in that through circumstances, not through any will of their own, they are kept here throughout the whole of the year. I think that much better results would be achieved by Parliament and in Members serving their own constituencies if our work was programmed so as to make it possible for Members to expect to be at home in their constituencies at least for certain periods of the year. For that reason I would ask the House to reject the amendment of the hon. Member and to try the proposition put forward.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the President of the Privy Council a question. What additional staff is contemplated to provide for these extra hours that the House will sit? Have these arrangements been put in motion?

**Mr. McIlraith:** The short answer is yes. I cannot give precise numbers but, for instance, additional *Hansard* reporters have been authorized, and an additional editor, and the same applies to the committee and other staffs. There is no doubt that it will take a little time to work out and perfect the system. That is perhaps the strongest reason of all for a trial basis for these rules, but the steps have been taken. Authority for the expenditure has been granted, and so on.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, I was going to rise to ask a rather similar question of the President of the Privy Council. When I was speaking a few minutes ago I said I felt, and I still feel, that we should have in somewhat greater detail than the President of the Privy Council has yet indicated what plans are afoot. He mentioned the *Hansard* reporters, but he made no reference to the translators or to what provision will be made in respect of the protective staff, the page boys, the officers at the table and so on. I feel quite seriously that even those who are prepared to oppose the amendment of the hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre are entitled to know what the situation is, because generally

speaking I think they are concerned about the matter.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Chairman, I well understand the hon. gentleman's concern about the question. I am in some difficulty in answering it for two reasons. One is that under our system it is the responsibility of Mr. Speaker to provide the necessary staff to carry out whatever clerical and other tasks are needed by the House, but I think that answer is somewhat legalistic and is not sufficient to allay any fears in this regard.

The other difficulty is that if we were to engage staff permanently and start paying them before the changes were authorized this would, I am sure, bring a charge from the benches opposite of arrogant action on the part of the Ministers comprising the Internal Economy Commission. So for these two reasons it is not possible to give the kind of information the hon. Member wants. But it is possible for me to tell him that from the time these rules were put forward some tentative arrangements were developed, in conjunction with those responsible for the administrative services of the House of Commons. Working arrangements, if you like, were made with them to provide the organization and staff to service the changed requirements. Full cognizance has been taken of that factor.

There is no thought at all that we can extend the number of hours of sitting by 30 per cent and not increase the staff and rearrange the organization. There is no such thought at all. All these steps have been taken, the kind of steps that are preliminary to authorizing the expenditure and securing the establishment. In some cases additional prospective members of the staff have in fact been interviewed and have indicated their readiness to come. For instance, I might tell hon. Members that I asked this afternoon whether certain arrangements having to do with the ceremonial part of servicing the House between six and eight p.m. had been provided for. But it is impossible for me to go through the administration section by section and say what the staffs are. Speaking only from recollection, I rather think that three *Hansard* reporters and another *Hansard* editor are involved, and the same thing is true of other staffs.

**Mr. Prittie:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has mentioned that authority will be granted for additional staff.

**Mr. McIlraith:** It has been.