

Procedure and Organization

tion. I pointed out earlier that one should not rely too much upon that citation until one had an opportunity to read what happened in 1912, the 46th year of confederation. But the words of citation 88(2) which the President of the Privy Council read were:

All motions referring to the business of the house should be introduced by the leader of the house.

The hon. member for Calgary North is not trying to introduce a motion regarding the business of the house. We have tried on occasion to move motions that would mean our proceeding from the order we were on to some other business. That was done during the flag debate and on other occasions. Such motions have been ruled out of order on the basis of this citation which provides that only the government can say what will be dealt with in government time.

The hon. member for Calgary North is not trying to tell the government what should be taken up in government time. He is not moving a motion that has to do with the business of the house. He is not usurping that function of the government house leader. The hon. member is moving a motion that deals only with the question of the time of adjournment, and I submit that is fully provided for under Standing Order 42(1).

Under Standing Order 32 a motion of this kind is debatable. Standing Order 32(1)(p) sets out the last of a long list of motions which are debatable and contains these words:

Such other motion, made upon routine proceedings, as may be required for the observance of the proprieties of the house, the maintenance of its authority, the appointment or conduct of its officers, the management of its business, the arrangement of its proceedings, the correctness of its records, the fixing of its sitting days or the times of its meeting or adjournment.

I read Standing Order 32(1)(p) not only to make the point that this kind of motion is debatable but to show that provision is made for motions made upon routine proceedings having to do with the fixing of the time of adjournment of the house. All told, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me it would take far more compelling arguments than those advanced by the President of the Privy Council to persuade Your Honour that you should rule differently today from the way you ruled last Thursday.

Last Thursday Your Honour admitted you had doubt about the motion and to-day you have claimed the right not to be bound by your decision. On that occasion the government, to our surprise, agreed to the motion

and it passed, but the motion was made not by consent but on the basis of rule 42(1). I submit that the motion made today should be allowed by Your Honour on the basis of Standing Order 42(1) and the ruling given by Mr. Speaker Ross Macdonald on December 20, 1951.

I submit, therefore, that the motion should be allowed and that the house should be given an opportunity to speak to the motion, if it wishes, and to take a decision on it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair is quite willing to hear hon. members, but they will realize that if the motion is not put before four o'clock it becomes a nullity and we cannot proceed further with it. We cannot be discussing at five o'clock or 4.30 a motion that the house adjourn at four o'clock. I am sure hon. members realize this. That is why the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) glanced at the clock during the presentation of his argument. I thought I should bring this point to the attention of hon. members. I feel I would have to exercise my discretion and rule that the motion is a nullity if the question is not put before four o'clock.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It could be amended.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Woolliams: I shall be brief, Mr. Speaker. Two points were made by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald). The first was that the motion could be made only by the house leader. The second was that a similar motion moved last July 17 was allowed because the government consented to it. I point out that it was not a case of consent; the government merely consented to the substance of the motion. I shall put on record what took place that day. After the motion was moved Your Honour said:

Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order in connection with the proposed motion?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The motion has not yet been put to the house.

I believe I should place this passage on record because it seems to be the latest precedent in this regard. Your Honour continued:

Although I may have some doubt concerning the motion, in view of the fact that it has not been questioned procedurally I will put it to the house at this time. The motion, moved by Mr.