

Transportation

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister of Transport made an undertaking this afternoon and would like to keep it. However, I wish to remind the house that the standing orders allow me to speak, as I was recognized before the motion was introduced. If the Minister of Transport wishes to introduce his motion after I have completed my remarks, he has a right to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I feel quite at ease to continue my speech after ten o'clock, all the more so because I believe it is my duty to work as much as I can in the house in order to earn the indemnity of \$18,000 that the taxpayers in Canada agree to pay us.

That is why, Mr. Speaker,—

[English]

Mr. Nasserden: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

An hon. Member: Ten o'clock.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, while on the subject of the motion for second reading—

[English]

Mr. Churchill: This is a disgraceful breaking of a word by the government.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Surely it is clear from the testimony of all of us who were in the house at the time in question that there was a definite understanding that the house was to rise at ten o'clock. How can we carry on in this place if we break agreements that have been clearly and solemnly made?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I would maintain that there was more than an understanding. There seemed to be double acquiescence when I indicated, as the acting house leader, that this was an order of the house. I think it was so recorded in the records. If, perchance, there was a slip, I would ask Your Honour whether the record could not be examined, and whether this matter could not be determined, because I completely agree with other hon. gentlemen that if an hon. member who was not present when these arrangements were made, and were made orders of the house, can upset such arrangements, it is going to be virtually impossible to carry on our business in this house.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, while on the subject of the motion for second reading of the bill before us—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret very much, after studying the record, of what was said this afternoon, that though there was a suggestion that there might be an order of the house, there was no such order made. There is no record of an order of the house having been passed. The only thing we have was an exchange between hon. members on both sides of the house saying that there would be an agreement that we would adjourn at ten o'clock. The hon. member for Lapointe is not reported as having commented at the time.

Mr. Knowles: He was not here.

Mr. Speaker: Certainly hon. members will recognize that the Chair has to submit to the rules. The only thing before the Chair now is the motion to sit beyond six o'clock. If the hon. member for Lapointe wants to speak now I do not think he can be prevented, on the basis of the motion which was adopted earlier today.

Mr. Churchill: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, you have informed us that an agreement was reached by the hon. members then in the house that this house, or these proceedings, would terminate at ten o'clock. Surely that is a binding as a formal order recorded in the *Journals*, and would correspond to the customs and usages of the House of Commons of which the Speaker is the custodian. If there has been a gentlemen's agreement, I think it should be honoured and should be enforced by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is no entry on the scroll, I am informed by the clerk. If there were such an entry it would be in the form of an order. The scroll of the house does not show and will not show that there was an agreement to the effect previously mentioned.

Mr. Nasserden: On a point of order, I take it that the hon. member for Lapointe wants to speak now because he has reservations to go home. He talked about duty a few minutes ago. Perhaps his duty would be to cancel his reservation and make his speech tomorrow.

An hon. Member: He will not be here.