

Business of the House

The government has the last word as to what the order of business is going to be, and if the government wants to go back to that practice, then let it go ahead. But we, too, have certain rights on this side of the house; we, too, have certain responsibilities, and the government may find that in the fulfilment of the work of the house it may not get the co-operation that it has always received in the past.

All I say now is that I appeal to the house leader and to all those who sit on the other side to keep in mind that if we are to have an orderly discussion on debates it seems to me that we must know fairly well in advance what the business is to be. I am not complaining about the order of business which was given this evening. But I do bring to the attention of the house leader the fact that in order to have the kind of discussion which we have been used to in the past we should be given a reasonable notice of the subjects that are likely to be discussed from day to day.

Mr. Speaker: Before the hon. member for Assiniboia speaks, and I expect I should hear his contribution, I think perhaps I should say that a discussion of this kind is quite out of order. I hope it will not be looked upon as a precedent.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the house leader raised this matter of co-operation amongst the parties and how we handle the business of the house; may I say to him that it is a matter of concern to all

parties. I want to tell the house leader that we in this group appreciate very much the notice that is given some days in advance and we find that advance notice most helpful, so we would urge him to continue that practice. It is understandable that from time to time ministers must be away and there must be some modification in the order of business; this we can understand. But I would go along with the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) in expressing the hope that we can be given notice as early as possible of any changes in what are tentative arrangements.

I do feel that the hon. member for Laurier is exaggerating the complaint that he has made, and that he is making a great deal out of something that is not as important as he says it is. I do wish to repeat that I hope the house leader will not take the suggestion of the hon. member for Laurier that we should go back to the long standing practice of announcing the following day's business merely the evening before. I think it is in keeping with the better consideration of the business of this house if there is an advance notice of some few days.

Mr. Speaker: To reinforce what I said before about being too long on this matter, we have been 10 minutes in hearing the announcement of the business for tomorrow.

It being ten minutes past ten o'clock, the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.