

Supply—Secretary of State

but we feel that we should at least know what to expect.

For instance, if a definite time is set for ending the discussion of the estimates, say eleven o'clock, we are ready to co-operate. But if the idea is to have the debate drag until three or four in the morning, I suggest this is no longer co-operation but hypocrisy.

[*English*]

Mr. Starr: I am rising on a point of order in view of what has been said by the hon. member for Lapointe. I have been here for some 14 years. He has been here only a few years. If I had nothing more to contribute than he has contributed over that period of time, I think I would take my seat.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, I am sure we are all anxious to arrive at an understanding on a basis of mutual agreement. We are not trying to throw invective at each other, but I would point out that a certain place in another part of this building adjourned at 9.30. Therefore, no matter how long we sit tonight, the estimates and the final bill will not be put through tonight. It will take until tomorrow, in any case.

I think the more responsible way to go at things is to finish up the department that is before us, and finish the other two departments tomorrow afternoon. If we get into fisheries and the R.C.M.P. tonight we are likely to be here until quite late. We will be doing a disservice to the staff of the house and it will not speed up payment of salaries because the other place has adjourned.

Mr. McIlraith: I think I should explain the reference to the other place. The fact is that the other place, when it meets tomorrow afternoon, should have before it the bill from this House. It cannot have that bill if we do not start considering it until after the other place has met tomorrow afternoon. It is purely a matter of getting the bill ready before hon. members of the other place meet, so that they can have a short time to consider and pass it before the royal assent, which has been arranged for tomorrow afternoon.

I must acknowledge that the other place has been very co-operative during what has been a difficult situation over the last few days. They arranged to come and deal with these matters on Friday evening and again tonight. If the arrangement for tomorrow could be met, I think it would be a fair treatment of the whole subject. I would again make my appeal to hon. members—forget whatever differences there might be between

parties at the moment and try to complete all these estimates tonight.

Mr. Olson: I think we should try to get all the estimates passed, in keeping with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Ontario, but I also believe that we should do it, if possible, within a reasonable length of time. In other words, if we leave matters wide open for the Department of Fisheries and the R.C.M.P. item, without any gentlemen's agreement, we may be here until two or three o'clock in the morning discussing, for instance, the skinning of seals. Therefore, while we agree that it would be beneficial to have the balance of the estimates passed so that the appropriations bill can be sent to the Senate, we urge that it should be done in a reasonable length of time.

Mr. McIlraith: Would the hon. member indicate what he regards as a reasonable length of time?

Mr. Olson: I would think some time between now and midnight, if there is just one department to deal with.

Mr. Starr: I would agree with that and we are prepared, and give our word, that by twelve o'clock midnight we will pass all the items in all departments.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, individual members have particular problems that they want to raise, and this is taking advantage of them.

● (10:30 p.m.)

What this suggestion, in effect, would be doing, would be to almost eliminate the discussion of a vitally important department, namely, the Department of Fisheries. This department has been left until the last. If we proceed this evening to restrict ourselves as to time, in order to get the estimates through—and I am not objecting to that in principle because of the financial difficulty in which the government finds itself—we will be thumbing our noses at all the fishermen in British Columbia. Some 22 of them were down here recently trying to gain the support of members of parliament for their particular problems. I think the suggestion to brush this department to one side is unconscionable.

I think a better approach would be to proceed to deal with the estimates of the Secretary of State tonight and start off fresh in the morning on a fishing expedition. There is nothing better than fishing in the morning