

Procedure and Organization

● (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Stanfield: I wonder if the hon. member would answer a question. All I wish to ask him is this: Is he honestly prepared to say that he would recommend the adoption of this rule by the house in its present form as a good rule?

Mr. Kaplan: With the undertaking of the house leader to make certain changes, yes.

Mr. Stanfield: I wonder if the hon. member would answer the question I asked him in simple and straightforward language. That is all I ask. Is he prepared to recommend to the house this rule in its present form as a good rule which the house should adopt?

Mr. Kaplan: The hon. member will see me vote for the motion, and that will express my feeling about it.

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I understand the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) would like to put a question. I might again point out to hon. members that it is not the usual practice to have a protracted question period following a speech by an hon. member, and I invite the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby to put his question briefly.

Mr. Broadbent: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the hon. member who is about to speak. The reason for putting my question is that I enjoyed the contribution of the hon. member opposite which I think was a very thoughtful and constructive contribution to this debate. I agree with his argument to a very substantial extent. It is a serious point to which I would like an answer. I do not wish to be argumentative. If I understood him correctly, he said at some point that the majority should have the right to determine not only substantive legislation but also the rules of the house. In fact I am in agreement on this point, but would the hon. member agree—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. As I pointed out originally, I think it is a bad practice to allow a series of questions following a speech made by an hon. member. There is no provision for it in the rules. It is left to the discretion of the Chair and the courtesy of hon. members. Although I allowed hon. members to pose questions, I would not like

[Mr. Kaplan.]

this to be the pattern in the future. Therefore, I invite the hon. member to put the question immediately.

Mr. Broadbent: Would the hon. member agree that the provision that there should be a period no longer than one day for the report stage under the proposed legislation is sufficient for an important piece of legislation?

Mr. Kaplan: This would depend generally on the bill, but I do not think this would necessarily be one of the sticking points in the negotiations. It is the principle that is the important thing and it is the principle that is not acceptable to the hon. member's party.

Mr. Stanfield: The hon. member is just as evasive as his leader.

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): Mr. Speaker, in the ebb and flow of debate that has been going on in this house for so many days, and in the ebb and flow of public opinion as expressed in our news media, the radio, the T.V. and the press, I had hoped that this debate would end by the meeting of reasonable men arriving at a conclusion I had hoped the government would be reasonable and adjourn this house or withdraw that part of the report which we find so obnoxious, namely rule 75c, so that we could adjourn the house and go home. Then, I would not have to make this speech tonight. However, I, along with a lot of other members of this house, have had the opportunity and the privilege of welcoming hundreds of young people to these beautiful parliament buildings, to these marble halls and to this attractive green chamber throughout my period in this house. I have been always proud to show them this building in all its beauty and magnificence. I have heard members of this house explaining to our visitors the traditions, privileges and rights of this place and what it stands for

However, this place in which my remarks are being made tonight is sometimes referred to as that funny house, that place, and this debate in which I am taking part has been called a stupid filibuster. I have a feeling that there are some people in this area who would like to see these walls come tumbling down, like the walls of Jericho. This could happen. It has happened before in democratic countries where irresponsible people let their rights and privileges be chiselled away. That is what is happening tonight; one of the privileges of free debate is being interfered with in this house. Sometimes I wonder if a time