

The motion, moved by Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre, and seconded by Mr. Winch, is that this house adjourn this day at four o'clock p.m.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I was rising originally to support the admissibility of the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might now like to speak to the motion itself.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, without wishing to appear to curry any particular favour may I say that perhaps this motion had a happy origin in the gathering Your Honour convened yesterday afternoon where people were able to, shall we say, get together and look at things from a slightly different point of view. So we would hope, having Your Honour's happy inspiration as a precedent, that the house would now take the example of the initiative of Your Honour, and of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) in moving the motion.

I think it is quite clear to Your Honour and to hon. members that this would appear to be a logical outcome of the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition in a press conference on Monday in which he indicated there was some approach, some modification or some form of agreement that could be reached on certain terms. The reply yesterday by the government house leader was to another version, but I do not consider that the versions are self-excluding and I would urge hon. members, particularly on the government side, to accept this opportunity to convene a meeting to see what kind of a meeting of minds there might be to resolve this problem.

I am sure, on the basis perhaps of something that was indicated by some ministers privately and indicated by house leaders or representatives of the various opposition parties, that there is some common ground on which to move. After all, this is the way a consensus may be arrived at. This is the way a solution is sometimes found to a problem that all too often appears impossible of rationalization. After all, the opposition is composed of reasonable men and so is the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, they do not all wear horns and have forked tails—just some of them. In any event, let us see whether an attempt can be made at

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this time. I think we would be much poorer in our attempts to resolve this matter if we did not make this effort because, if there is not to be a solution, at least no one can then point the finger at members of the house and say that they did not really try to explore all avenues. To that extent I would support the motion put forward by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

• (2:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, for some days now the House of Commons has found itself in an unfortunate dilemma. The standing orders governing our proceedings are under consideration.

Both parties are far apart and apparently a solution cannot be found. I am reminded of labour conflicts which can sometimes hurt a lot of people before they are settled.

Mr. Speaker, the motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) for the adjournment of the house at 4 o'clock, to enable the committee on procedure and organization to hold an important meeting, in order to find a compromise or to negotiate, is an excellent idea. We must congratulate the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre for having thought of it and for having introduced that motion.

As far as we are concerned, we, of the Ralliement Créditiste, would like to support and encourage Your Honour to give his approval, so that consultations among representatives of all parties in the house may begin, in order to restore the understanding and co-operation that have always existed among the parties, and to avoid the virulent and unreasonable attacks we have been witnessing recently.

We are not getting anywhere. We find ourselves in an impasse. The government says: You are wrong. The opposition tells the government: You are mistaken. And day after day, discussions go on and on without any light or solution. Mr. Speaker, this is a ridiculous situation, because of a lack of co-operation, good will, and consultation among parties.

In a word, if this motion is ruled in order by the Chair, we hope it will also have the support of government members, because I feel the stalemate we are in must come to an end and negotiations must begin.

I should like to join the other hon. members so that it may be said that the House of Commons has kept its prestige and has been