

Mr. OLLIVIER: It had the effect of a motion of adjournment. You did adjourn. You did not fix a day when you should meet again. I suppose it was at the call of the Chair. If you do not set a date when you adjourn, you adjourn to the call of the Chair. The meeting has been called back; you have had your adjournment. The meeting has been called back, and you are proceeding as if you had just adjourned from day to day.

Mr. NUGENT: But we are not.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions anyone wishes to address to Dr. Ollivier?

Mr. CAMERON (*Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands*): I have one question. If this situation is not as Mr. Klein and I suggested it was, is this a social gathering or is this a meeting of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: This is certainly a committee meeting.

Mr. CAMERON (*Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands*): Then we have reversed the decision of last week.

Mr. BASFORD: We have called a meeting to discuss the report of the sub-committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right; we are making the report to the committee.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, may I comment briefly on my motion?

If you look at Beauchesne's rules to see just exactly what the committee is, you will find it says, at page 236:

285. (1) .Originally the word 'committee' was used for the member to whom the study of a bill was entrusted.

I emphasize the word "study". I think the only difference today from the historical background of the committee is that there are more people in the committee than just one person, but the basic point is that the committee is still set up for the purpose of study. A comment was made about whether or not a standing or select committee is bound exactly by the rules of the house.

I would draw to the attention of this committee the citation of Beauchesne at page 237, paragraph 288:

Committees are regarded as portions of the house and are governed for the most part in their proceedings by the same rules which prevail in the house.

And I emphasize the words "for the most part". I think Dr. Ollivier helped to make it clear that there cannot be exactly the same rules governing committees of the house or of the whole. He gave a good example about the Speaker leaving the chair. So it would appear that the primary object of a standing committee, in that the standing committee considers all subjects and a select committee studies particular subjects, is to study a bill pursuant to the reference of the house and to report to the house, and not make a final disposition of it. I think this is our primary obligation and our only real duty. I think this is amply demonstrated by Dr. Ollivier's citation. However, I would like to add another useful citation. Dr. Ollivier referred to paragraph 304(1) which says:

A committee can only consider those matters which have been committed to it by the house.

However, there remains a quotation by Bourinot which says:

. . . . this principle is essential to the regular despatch of business; for, if it were admitted that what the house entertained in one instance, and referred to a committee, was so far controllable by that committee that it was at liberty to disobey the order of reference, all business would be at an end, and as often as circumstances would afford a pretence, the proceedings of the house would be involved in the confusion.