

*Procedure Committee Report*

he felt those recommendations should be adopted as quickly as possible. Then he said that the government would certainly welcome such a standing order being formulated—that is in connection with the point I have mentioned.

In view of the fact that the report before us is in rather wide, general language, and the committee has undoubted authority to bring in more refined or, more specific suggested standing orders, and in view of the fact that, from the impressions I gained in discussions with members of that committee—I cannot speak for them, of course—their wish now in light of yesterday's debate is to get on with the preparation of more precise recommendations arising out of the proposals contained in this report, or variations of them which were discussed in the debate yesterday, I would ask that this motion stand.

In view of the willingness and eagerness of hon. members to get on with this work, and in view of the Prime Minister's clear indication of the government's willingness not only to co-operate but, if it becomes part of government responsibility to take any action, to take such action, I hope we will be able to get on with government business today and allow this motion to stand. Technically, no doubt, there is a right to proceed with it or to allow it to stand on the order paper so that all rights will be reserved in respect of it, or to let it drop from the order paper.

I wonder if hon. members will consider this; because after all there is some government business of importance and urgency now before parliament. I think that course should commend itself to all hon. members, and I would ask those members who have asserted their right to proceed today—and that right undoubtedly exists—to let the motion stand for today, in view of what I have said and in order to permit us to have discussions with you, Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the committee, and other committee members to see whether the committee cannot resume its work immediately. I believe that course of action would be most effective in achieving the result which I believe all hon. members desire to achieve, a thorough examination and the implementation of any improvement to our proceedings.

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that some of the members of the committee agreed that we would require and perhaps be satisfied with one full day's debate on the fifteenth report which, as the President of the Privy Council has said, we did in fact have yesterday. As far

as I am concerned, I believe the special committee that was set up on procedure and organization was given a specific task. That committee, after having made an inquiry, has come back to this house with certain recommendations, and it has completed its job up to a point.

I was very pleased with the speech made by the right hon. Prime Minister yesterday, as well as the speeches made by the hon. member for Peace River and other members who have contributed to this debate. However, we have not solved the procedural problem with which we are faced at this moment. Whether or not there was a general agreement among house leaders and members of the committee, we must recognize that such an agreement cannot be extended to cover what we now require, and that is unanimous consent. For that reason I feel we should consider citation 322 in *Beauchesne's* fourth edition, which appears at page 251 and is as follows:

When the motion to concur is proposed—

This refers to a committee report.

—the report may be referred back to the committee for further consideration or with instruction to amend it in any respect.

The next part of the citation I believe to be extremely important, Mr. Speaker.

It is not competent for a committee to reconsider and reverse its own decision, but if the house resolves that such reconsideration is necessary, the correct procedure is for the house to give the committee instructions which will enable it to consider the whole question again.

It is my impression that in the speech made by the Prime Minister as well as in speeches made by other members there was an indication that some reconsideration is necessary, and I am sure the committee is prepared to carry out such reconsideration. How can we get around this matter of unanimous consent to either stand the debate or, for that matter—and I would be willing—to ask for unanimous consent to withdraw the motion? Again this would require unanimous consent, and if that is not forthcoming it seems the only way we can accomplish that which I believe most members wish to accomplish is by a motion to refer the report back to the committee for further consideration. This can be done, but it must come from the house unless we have unanimous consent either to withdraw or stand the motion. As far as the committee is concerned, there were some very useful suggestions made and I am sure we are prepared to deal with them, but citation 322 really obliges us to have some instruction from the house before amending this report.