

*Legislation Respecting Railway Matters*

house to the fact that it would require unanimous consent that it be proceeded with later this day. I can remember that very distinctly, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that *Hansard* will bear out my statement. I say, therefore, that while we may have a dilemma on this point of order we have an order of the house that second reading of this bill be proceeded with later this day. I suggest that is what the house decided not very long ago.

**Mr. Brewin:** I do not wish to prolong this part of the discussion, Mr. Speaker. I was one of those who clearly, if not loudly enough, said, "no" when it was proposed that we should give second reading to this bill today. I want to tell this house that we did so with a full sense of our responsibility to the people of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Brewin:** We have heard an emotional address by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg who condemns as partisan those who are desirous of cool, calm and collective consideration of the matter before us. We in this party have no intention whatever of dealing with something as far reaching and fundamental as the bill before us without being given an opportunity to consult and to consider and study the matter.

I suggest to all members of the house that if it is their desire to obtain a solution of the grave matter we are discussing they should not get into a panic or become hysterical. They should not say, let us rush this through, let us sit all night, and that sort of thing. I know that feelings are strong but strong feelings and emotional references will not solve this problem as easily as will reasonable, deliberate consideration by parliament. For that reason I say that I support my leader and I support every member of this party. We have no desire to delay this matter but we do have a desire to take the time to take a serious look at something put before us just half an hour or so ago.

**Mr. Pearson:** May I ask for a ruling from you, Mr. Speaker, on whether in your view unanimous consent is now necessary before I can proceed with my statement on second reading or whether that has been dispensed with because of earlier proceedings?

**Mr. Speaker:** I must repeat that it was my impression that unanimous consent had been given. However, three hon. members have risen in their places to state they had not

[Mr. Olson.]

given unanimous consent. The Chair has to accept the statements made by those three hon. members. I have come to the conclusion that there has been no such unanimity and no consent. The Prime Minister, therefore, cannot at this time proceed with the second reading of the bill.

**Mr. McIlraith:** In view of the fact that there is no unanimous consent to proceed with second reading, I regret that I see no alternative but to move the adjournment of the house.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Pearson:** Before that motion is put, could I make a suggestion which may make it unnecessary for us to wait all evening. There has been a ruling that unanimous consent is now required. Some members of the New Democratic Party have stated they are willing to give unanimous consent provided there is either a statement from the Prime Minister now and then an adjournment or an adjournment now until eight o'clock. They will only give unanimous consent on that understanding, and I can appreciate that. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition has said he is not willing to give unanimous consent on that understanding. Surely it is better to sacrifice two or three hours now so the bill can be read than to sacrifice the rest of the day which would be the case if unanimous consent cannot be given.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed that the bill stand for second reading until tomorrow?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** Until eight o'clock this evening?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Douglas:** We would be agreeable, Mr. Speaker, if the house would adjourn now and give us until eight o'clock to examine this legislation, and then proceed at eight o'clock.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I ask permission to withdraw my motion and to substitute a motion that the house do rise until eight o'clock and that at eight o'clock it do proceed with second reading of the bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Proceedings on the bill will stand adjourned until eight o'clock tonight by unanimous consent. The sittings of the house will be suspended until eight o'clock this evening.

## SITTING SUSPENDED

At 5.10 p.m. the sitting of the house was suspended until 8 p.m.