

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MOTION FOR CONTINUOUS SITTING

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move that there be no intermission this day, notwithstanding standing order 6 or the terms of the resolution passed by the house on July 22, 1946, in relation thereto.

Mr. BRACKEN: I have no objection whatever to the motion, but most of us in this party will be unable to be here for the next hour. However, we are leaving it in the hands of the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) and we shall be well represented. After the splendid address he gave this morning, I do not think he will occupy much more time.

Mr. IRVINE: Do I understand the motion is that there shall be no period for lunch or supper until we have finished? If that is what it means I do not think it is a good policy. While I am at lunch, perhaps some matter in which I am interested will be passed, and other members may be in the same position. I do not like the idea of not having a recess for lunch. I do not mind supper so much.

Mr. JAQUES: We still have a pretty heavy docket, and it is possible that even without any further discussion on this particular item the house will not finish to-day. On the other hand, we may get through earlier than we expect. In either event there would be an opportunity to discuss the particular item if the minister would consent to hold it over until, in one way or the other, it is settled. If the house adjourned to-night and carried on next week there would be no harm in discussing it then.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I am in the hands of the house. I am prepared to stay here until Christmas and am ready to have any item stand at the request of any hon. member. If hon. members prefer to have External Affairs stand for the time being and deal with other items, that is agreeable to me. I am prepared to accept anything that will suit the convenience of hon. members.

Mr. BRACKEN: May I make a suggestion? The Acting Prime Minister has made a suggestion which I think the house might be disposed to accept. The hon. member for Wetaskiwin feels keenly on this subject and it is his right to speak if he wishes to do so. The Acting Prime Minister has suggested that we deal with other items and,

if time remains, to give the item that stands further discussion, that can be done. Would that not be acceptable to the hon. member?

Mr. BLACKMORE: Let item 41 stand. Item stands.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

LEGISLATION

House of Commons—

126. Estimates of the Sergeant-at-Arms, \$346,107.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Who is responsible for these estimates?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): How many temporary employees on the protective staff have been working on a full-time basis for more than three years?

Mr. SPEAKER: There are five who are temporary and will be kept on full time.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): How many hours do the protective staff work; are they on eight-hour shifts?

Mr. SPEAKER: The protective staff works eight hours a day.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): How long do they get off for lunch?

Mr. SPEAKER: They have an hour and a half.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): How long do the protective staff in the galleries work these days? Are they on from eleven o'clock in the morning until eleven o'clock at night?

Mr. SPEAKER: My information is that they work for eight hours and from time to time they are allowed to leave the galleries for a rest.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): My information is that there are temporary members of the protective staff who are paid at the rate of \$4 a day—I am excluding the cost of living bonus just now—and that they are on a temporary basis although they are employed the year round, which to my mind at least, unless there is a good reason for it, seems unfair. What is even more unfair, in my opinion, is the differential which exists between the rates of pay of the protective staff in the House of Commons and the protective staff in the Senate. What is the reason for that differential?