

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Mr. Fairweather: That is not a question of privilege; that is debate.

Mr. Allmand: As was said a moment ago—

An hon. Member: The hon. member is out of order.

Mr. Allmand:—the question is, how much time have committees spent—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

An hon. Member: On division.

Motion agreed to.

An hon. Member: Ten o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BILL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on March 3, as reported in *Hansard* at page 4310, I asked whether consideration was being given to arranging for a discussion of the conflict of interest problem either on the basis of my Bill C-188 or on the basis of some government initiative. As I recall, I was not given an answer on that occasion. I asked almost the same question on March 18, as recorded in *Hansard* at pages 5186 and 5187. On that occasion the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) was kind enough to answer, although all he did was indicate to me that no decision had yet been taken on this matter.

May I say that in raising this question tonight on the late show it is not my intention to talk about the substance of the problem, namely, the conflict of interest problem itself; nor am I trying to smuggle in a commercial for my Bill C-188. I am genuinely concerned and genuinely anxious to see this House come to grips with the problem of the conflict of interest, and that is my purpose tonight.

Perhaps I might take a moment to indicate at least part of the background to my question. On Friday, June 6, 1969, I asked a question about this measure of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). It is to be found on page 9823

of *Hansard* for that date. I should like, sir, to read the Prime Minister's reply, which was as follows:

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the importance of the question and I appreciate the way it was worded. To make sure that there will be no conflicts of interest in the exercise of the functions of members of the House of Commons or of the other place, I said a few months ago, either when answering a question in the house or at a press conference that the government has the whole question of conflicts of interest under study. During the course of the summer—

That being the summer of 1969.

—I think we will be able to arrive at some view as to what reforms might be made in the Senate and House of Commons Act and in other statutes to ensure that this problem is dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

Then the Prime Minister said:

In the meantime if members of the other parties in the house have constructive suggestions to make, I will be interested to hear them.

Naturally, Mr. Speaker, I welcomed most heartily the Prime Minister's reply and the spirit in which it was given. Because he asked for constructive suggestions that we might wish to make, and since nothing was placed on the Order Paper relating to this when we met in the fall, I introduced my Bill C-188 which suggests a way to cope with this problem. I have tried to make it clear that I wish to see the matter discussed. Since I am the proposer of the bill I should be glad to see it discussed at some special time which might be set aside for it or to have it referred to committee. But I should be just as happy to see the matter discussed under some government initiative.

• (10:00 p.m.)

My purpose, therefore, in posting this question for the late show tonight—and I am glad to see the President of the Privy Council is here and will be responding to it—is not to raise an argument about the substance of the matter but to make my plea to him that some way be found to arrange for Parliament to come to grips with this issue at the earliest possible date.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): As the hon. member has indicated, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which the government has had under consideration for some time. The hon. member did not note this, but I remind the House that last summer a study was carried out the results of which