

Procedure and Organization

words of explanation due to hon. members respecting the considerations of the committee when compiling this report. I would be agreeable to having the report stand until a later date, but I do think it would be useful to hon. members, particularly to members of the government, if some explanation could be given at this time; then the report could stand and we would not proceed to the point where we had concurrence.

Mr. McIlraith: Do I understand the hon. member's remarks to mean that he would make his speech moving the motion for concurrence in the committee report and then have the debate adjourned at that point in the proceedings? I believe that would be agreeable if that is what he intends to ask for.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is only right that the Chair should declare its personal interest in this matter. It has been moved by the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson), seconded by the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Walker):

That the fifteenth report of the special committee on procedure and organization presented to the house on December 14, 1964 be now concurred in.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I had a very detailed explanation prepared for the house this morning, but I will be as brief as possible in keeping with the desire to give members of this house at least some explanation of the background to the preparation of this fifteenth report.

I want to say at the outset that concurrence by this house would not necessarily give effect to the recommended changes in standing orders and all the other necessary changes in procedure in this house to the point where all the suggestions which have been made would be effected. It would simply give the blessing of this house to the new committee structure which is proposed by the fifteenth report. I think it is obvious from reading the report, from the language which is used and from the nature of the recommendations which are made that it would require changes in standing orders as well as other changes which could not in fact be made without legislation being passed.

In commencing my remarks may I point out to hon. members that they can find the complete report printed in *Notes and Proceedings* No. 210 for Monday, December 14 last. I also want to express appreciation to the members of the subcommittee who worked for many weeks preparing this report, including the hon. members for York Centre (Mr. Walker), North-

[Mr. Olson.]

umberland (Miss Jewett), Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), Royal (Mr. Fairweather), Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) and Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire). I should also like to express appreciation to Mr. Laundy, Mr. Carty and Mr. Kirby, who prepared a number of special studies for the consideration of the committee.

This subcommittee was established on August 26 of this year and its term of reference was simply "Committees". It was authorized to consider all questions and problems relating to the committee structure of this House of Commons. In the opinion of the full committee this subject was of such importance and magnitude as to justify the appointment of a fourth subcommittee with this single area of investigation as its terms of reference.

For your information, Mr. Speaker, the subcommittee held a large number of meetings. They wrote and redrafted the report several times. In addition, it was brought before the whole committee on procedure and organization three times and was appropriately amended after the discussion on each occasion.

When members study this report and give consideration to the effect it would have on the proceedings of this house, I should like them to bear in mind that our major attention was directed toward that duty of the house of dealing with the estimates and expenditures of the federal government. We did a great deal of work in considering what could and should be done by the standing committees of this house in respect of bills and other legislation, but we decided that we could not complete a study and make the necessary recommendations concerning the procedure for consideration of bills in the committees. So when considering this report I hope hon. members will bear in mind that the emphasis was placed on the consideration of estimates.

In *Notes and Proceedings* No. 164 of Wednesday, October 7 there appears a list of 14 special studies that were authorized for and on behalf of the subcommittees. Rather than read the list into the record again perhaps permission could be granted to have this list printed in *Hansard* along with this explanation. All these studies will be available to members so they may consider some of the background the subcommittee used in arriving at the recommendations it has made.

Mr. Speaker: Does the house give consent to the suggestion of the hon. member?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.