

Supply

Mr. Knowles: Next sitting.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite):
Next sitting of this house.

SUPPLY

On the order:

House again in committee of supply (the message of His Excellency the Governor General with estimates, referred).—The Minister of Finance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): Is there unanimous consent for the house to resolve itself again into committee of supply at this time?

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): Mr. Speaker, this is a rather unexpected and unusual situation as far as we are concerned. The business of the house as set down yesterday was the four bills which have been taken up. Of course owing to the fact that one of those bills, namely Bill No. 161 was out of order, this situation has arisen. We do not know what department would come into supply.

Mr. Lapointe: Post office.

Mr. Brooks: I might say that I know there are quite a number of members who would like to be here but who are not here and who would be interested in supply. I do not think it would be altogether fair to the house or to the members if we went on with supply, they not expecting supply to come up tonight. If the minister intends to make a speech and take the rest of the time until ten o'clock, I do not think there would be any objection to that procedure; but as far as the items are concerned, I do not believe the members feel that they wish to go ahead with them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): The position in which the chair finds itself is that Order No. 8 for the house again in committee of supply has been read. It is my interpretation of the rules that with the new rules we could only go into supply on a Tuesday by unanimous consent, and that under those circumstances we could not introduce a department which had not already been introduced. The question before the house then is this. Is there unanimous consent for the house to resolve itself again into committee of supply at this time?

Some hon. Members: No.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): I think I hear some people saying "Agreed" and other people saying "No". Under those circumstances I think there is objection.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, is there not an alternative? Could the government not move that

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite).]

we go into supply? It is true that it might be a debatable motion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, may I say that I was not proposing to debate the motion. I realize that hon. members might have drawn that conclusion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Applewhaite): I find myself in the position that I do not think I can accept a motion to go into supply because the new rules, as I read them, say that motions to go into supply at this stage shall be made on a Monday so that, if some subject is raised for debate, hon. members may have the full Monday and Tuesday for debate. If I remember rightly, without looking it up, the order must be the first called on a Monday and must be the first called on a Tuesday so the full two days debate is allowed.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think I am in agreement with what you have said. That was why it was suggested that we might ask for the unanimous consent of the house to proceed with the Post Office Department. This does not come as a surprise to hon. members opposite. I indicated earlier this evening that this would be the case if this order of business was completed. If my hon. friends say they cannot find it possible to agree, all I can say is that on future occasions I should simply say that I shall call the whole order paper, and then there will be no question of not being able to go on with any given item.

Mr. Casselman: The steam roller.

Mr. Harris: I want to be perfectly frank with hon. gentlemen opposite and just say this. I do not know of an occasion when I have not met their wishes with respect to the business of the house, either this session or any other session. If for the sake of 45 minutes they cannot agree with the government once upon this occasion, it seems to me that I should draw that fact to their attention at least once publicly during each session. If my hon. friends cannot find it possible to consent, in order to get behind them at least a small part of the Post Office Department, knowing that we will not complete it in that time, I can only suggest that I move we adjourn.

Mr. Brooks: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the minister throwing the blame on the opposition, may I say that if the government had intimated last night more business for the house—he mentioned four bills—there would not be this difficulty. It is the government's fault that there is not more business on the order paper.