

Business of the House

comment on it. I refer to housing in so far as Indian people are concerned.

The National Housing Act was amended in 1956 to provide that the corporation may make loans to Indians as defined in the Indian Act for the purposes of housing projects on reserves. I have been given to understand that not one single loan has been made. The reason for that is that not one single application has been made for such a loan.

This matter of home building is of extreme importance to native Indian people. I do not know whether this failure to apply for loans arises because they are not generally familiar with the fact that an Indian can apply to the corporation for a loan, or from the fact that Indian lands are not mortgageable for any purpose whatsoever; they are lands held in trust.

I am inclined to think that the latter reason is the correct one, that is, it is impossible to make loans to an Indian person for home building purposes because he cannot mortgage his land as security for the loan. There are a couple of means which might be used to overcome this difficulty and which I think the corporation should consider, or the governor in council should consider because the amendment to the act says these loans are subject to and in accordance with regulations of the governor general.

Perhaps some way may be found to overcome this particular difficulty and assist Indians to have the same opportunities as non-Indians in so far as borrowing money for home building purposes is concerned. Mr. Chairman, before I get into that question I wonder whether I may call it six o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed that the committee call it six o'clock.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, is there any chance of passing the last four items? This is the fourth day we have been on the estimates of the Department of Public Works, and there are other departments still to be considered.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, I think it should be called six o'clock. The national capital commission, for instance, is an extremely important matter and will perhaps require extensive discussion.

Mr. Walker: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member will look in the mirror tonight.

Mr. Howard: That would be more pleasant than looking at my hon. friend.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the leader of the house could in-

dicate what the government proposes to take up for the succeeding days of this week, or perhaps he would confirm what he has already indicated to the house, namely that there will be the budget debate on Thursday and Friday and estimates on Saturday.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, when I made the forecast for this week I thought we might have the budget debate on Thursday and Friday, but it was only a forecast. I will inform the house tomorrow what the business will be for Friday, and similarly for Saturday. At the moment I anticipate we will have estimates on Saturday. I have been waiting since Monday for a conference of the three parties in order to make certain decisions concerning the winding up of the session. I would like to confer with the other parties before specifically naming various items for discussion. As far as tomorrow is concerned, it will be devoted to the budget debate.

Mr. Pickersgill: The minister is not able to say definitely whether the budget debate will go on on Friday?

Mr. Churchill: I am not under any obligation to announce the business except from day to day. I think that tomorrow we will make decisions with regard to other days.

Mr. Pickersgill: I suggest to the minister that that is not an attitude conducive to co-operation.

Mr. Churchill: We had a great example of co-operation just at six o'clock tonight from the one hon. member who held up the house again, I think for about the sixth time.

Mr. Pickersgill: Has the minister any complaint to make about my friends?

Mr. Churchill: I am not making any complaint about the members of the official opposition nor with regard to most of the members of the corner group.

Mr. Howard: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Veterans Affairs—the leader of the house—

Some hon. Members: Six o'clock.

Mr. Howard: It is fine with me that it is six o'clock, Mr. Chairman, but this merely indicates that hon. members opposite wish to permit the Minister of Veterans Affairs to make slanderous accusations such as he has just made.

It being five minutes past six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to special order.