

*Business of the House*

wanted to make because at that time the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) got up and made a proposition—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Charlton:** I understand there is only one Speaker in the House of Commons. The hon. member, who had the backing of this party, suggested that we should go through until twelve o'clock tonight if the hon. member was willing to withdraw his motion. Nothing was said by members of the C.C.F. or the Social Credit or by those on the government benches. Nobody made any attempt to accept that offer. C.C.F. members now say they wanted to speak, but if they had really wanted to they could have accepted the offer that was made at 2.30 this afternoon. I am ready to sit down if they want to take advantage of that opportunity. Apparently they are not willing to do so. After the hon. member for Eglinton spoke this morning the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) threatened us with closure.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Charlton:** I have not spoken in this debate before and I am not threatening anybody.

**Mr. Sinnott:** It might be just as well.

**Mr. Speaker:** It might be just as well if the hon. member would leave it to the Speaker.

**Mr. Charlton:** If some of the hon. members behind the curtains or on the back benches would get on their feet and say what they thought, we might get along better.

**An hon. Member:** It would be unparliamentary.

**Mr. Charlton:** If the Prime Minister had not made that statement this morning I think the situation would have been less heated today. The very fact that we are not allowing ourselves to be pushed around is one reason I am on my feet. If the big stick is to be wielded by the government, the only thing left for an opposition minority is to carry on the fight for its rights by any means left at its disposal.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, I must rise again on a point of order. I want a definite ruling on the relevancy of what the hon. member is saying or I request leave to retire from the chamber.

**Mr. Fraser:** We will let you go.

**Mr. Charlton:** The interruptions are helping us out.

{Mr. Charlton.]

**Mr. Gardiner:** You are only killing time anyway.

**Mr. Charlton:** It is the principle we object to. It is that principle we are willing to fight for if we have to stay here until Christmas. If that principle were to be accepted, then I suggest seriously that any private member or any member on the government side could get up and move a similar motion and quash opposition in this House of Commons.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member referring to the motion?

**An hon. Member:** He does not know.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not clear just what the hon. member is referring to, but I would point out to him that he should direct his remarks not to the main motion or some other motion but to the amendment.

**Mr. Charlton:** I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that I was referring to the main motion. I am sorry; I was out of order. For the last week we have commenced our sittings each day at eleven in the morning and they have continued until one o'clock; then in the afternoon we have started at two-thirty for four days a week and continued until six fifteen, with evening sittings from eight until ten o'clock.

**An hon. Member:** We all know that.

**An hon. Member:** If you did not know it you would not be here.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Charlton:** Those members who do not have to do very much in the house find those hours comparatively easy. They are not called upon to make a study of the various bills that are before the house.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Charlton:** I repeat that statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** What that has to do with the motion, I do not know.

**An hon. Member:** Nobody knows.

**Mr. Speaker:** Either the motion or the amendment. May I ask the hon. member again to direct his remarks to the amendment.

**Mr. Charlton:** I think my reference to the fact that we sit from eleven o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night has a great deal to do with the amendment. We suggest that it would be better to have gone through until twelve o'clock tonight and thus be in a half decent condition to go ahead with legislation tomorrow. That would be much better than having to stay up all night and then continue tomorrow in a very tired state, with frayed nerves and probably frayed tempers.