

Conduct of Chairman of Defence Committee steering committee, the effect of which would be that we would proceed on Monday to the orderly discussion of the bill clause by clause. Thereupon a debate arose on the motion which did not conclude until about three minutes to eleven this morning, before the bells rang. I then noted that we would have to consider the balance of the list of hon. members who wished to speak on this matter, and that we should meet this afternoon for that purpose. There was some discussion on that, the bells of the house began to ring and, as the hon. member has suggested, at this moment I said we should meet this afternoon at two o'clock. There was some dissent and I asked for a show of hands—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deachman: —concerning whether we would be prepared to meet this afternoon. A majority agreed to meet this afternoon, and then we rose.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): An absolute falsehood.

Mr. Deachman: We rose then and prepared to meet this afternoon at two o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deachman: I am as willing to admit, as are some hon. members opposite who were in the room this morning, that there was some confusion about whether a motion had been put. I certainly am right, however, in saying that I suggested we meet at two o'clock, following which there was some dissension in respect of the idea of meeting at two o'clock, and then I pleaded with the committee to meet this afternoon in order to further the business of the committee. Finally, as the bells were ringing, I asked whether members were willing to meet this afternoon and hands were raised indicating willingness to meet this afternoon.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deachman: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I called the meeting for two o'clock this afternoon and, unless you rule against me, we will meet again this afternoon and proceed with our study of the bill.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is a shameful misstatement of the facts to say there was a vote called in the committee. That is not true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Greenwood.

[Mr. Deachman.]

Mr. Churchill: Is this a dictatorship?

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the committee on national defence, but unfortunately I was not able to be there this morning and did not hear what took place. It seems to me, however, that it would be most unfortunate if we should have a good deal of bickering and hardening of positions in respect of this matter. I think it would be a mistake for the committee to attempt to meet this afternoon if a substantial number of members feel they did not have adequate notice or believe there has been some misunderstanding concerning whether we would meet this afternoon. It seems to me that nothing is to be gained by shouting, bickering, standing up and filibustering on the one hand, or by closure on the other hand.

I suggest that the steering committee should meet again and plan how we should conclude the study of this very important matter. I regret that we are spending all this time here. I suggest the chairman should reconsider with the steering committee the question of postponing the meeting this afternoon and make other arrangements.

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order; I do not think—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has given his version and another hon. member has given his version. I doubt that much can be gained by arguing who is right or wrong. The hon. member has already spoken on the question of privilege.

• (11:40 a.m.)

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege. It is my feeling that the version I gave is so different from that of the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra that I am almost being accused of misleading the house. Let me say here and now that if the hon. member says there was a call for a vote I never heard it. If he asked for a show of hands I never heard that, and if he says there was a show of hands I never saw one. Let me assert that my version is accurate. If I am correct there was no motion, and if there was no motion there could be no call for a vote.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not disagree with the interpretation of facts by the hon. member. Certainly I think we would be making a terrible mistake, and perhaps we have already gone too far, in discussing the