

Cost of Living

our agenda. As usual, I like to co-operate with all my colleagues. As for the proposal, I find it logical and valid. Owing to the hour—it is five o'clock in the morning—I think that I should accede to that request and readily accept a change in our agenda so that we would sit at 2 p.m. I agree and accept that proposal.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In light of that, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the simplest thing for me to do is present the motion I suggested a moment ago. I therefore move the following, seconded by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) and supported by the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) and the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That the sitting of this House on Friday, September 14, 1973, commence at two o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubt as to whether the Chair is in a position to accept the motion presented by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). There is a motion now before the House that we adjourn. I gather there are a number of hon. members who want to speak to this motion. The hon. member rose, took the floor and intervened on a point of order. It does not give him the right to propose a motion such as this.

Even if it is five o'clock in the morning, the Chair has the responsibility to be very close to Beauchesne, Bourinot, May and other authorities, to be mindful of the Standing Orders and to remind the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that a motion cannot be proposed such as this one, on a point of order. I gather from what the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) indicated a moment ago, there are other speakers on the motion. I have to recognize them at the present time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, is it not possible for the House to do things by unanimous consent? The proposal I make is, not that we adjourn now until two o'clock but that when we adjourn the next session will not start until two. If it is unanimous, is Your Honour not protected?

Mr. Speaker: We would first have to agree that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is allowed, by unanimous consent, to make a motion on a point of order. I will inquire whether there is unanimous consent on this.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: By consent, Mr. Knowles, seconded by Mr. Bell, moves:

That the sitting of this House on Friday, September 14, 1973, commence at two o'clock p.m.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre) agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps on my own point of order I might suggest that whips and representatives in the House might advise hon. members who are not here. A few of their

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

colleagues are not in the House at the present time, and they should be advised they are not expected to be here at eleven in the forenoon. I am suspicious that some of our distinguished colleagues, such as the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) and others, will be here at eleven in the morning. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre will be here unless otherwise advised.

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether to take it as a compliment or not, but it strikes me as somewhat ominous that just before I should be given the opportunity to speak there should be the sudden outburst of unanimity among all parties that the House is going to require a rest following the debate this morning.

We are now approaching the hour of 5 a.m. and I rise with a mixture of feelings, as I am sure other hon. members have in this debate. First, I have the very natural feeling of being tired, as this debate has been prolonged long into the night. At the same time, I have a sense of exhilaration in being able to participate in this debate and to listen to the speeches of my colleagues. I have a sense of honour that every member feels in having the opportunity of addressing the House of Commons. Balanced with that feeling I have a sense of disappointment that there may be some futility to the debate in which we are participating.

That sense of honour is supplemented by the fact I have been able to join with my colleagues in the Progressive Conservative party, which provided the impetus for this debate and followed through with the majority of speeches, while on the government side we have seen lackluster representation and minimal participation. Toward this debate there was almost total ignorance and apathy on the part of ministers of the Crown. Those feelings extend further to the entire purpose of this debate and perhaps beyond that to the entire purpose of why we are assembled in this chamber, what it is we are attempting to do and are summoned here to do.

We all know that if we take it on the surface, this House is meeting tonight because Mr. Speaker accepted the emergency debate proposal put forward yesterday afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in view of the very serious circumstances facing this nation. We are also aware this House would not be sitting if it were the choice of the government. However, circumstances intervened to force the recall of this House when the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) and others in the government failed to settle the railway strike. Once the government was forced to recall parliament, we on this side made it very clear that in discharging our responsibility to the people of Canada we had no intention of leaving here before pressing the government with every means at our disposal to at long last take some action with regard to inflation or, the term which I prefer, to the rising cost of living.

● (0500)

If I might continue to deal further with these feelings, any member of the House who is aware of the commitment he holds, not only to the constituency he represents but to the nation as a whole, is constantly reminded that we in Canada are many times kept together not so much by the positive things we share but by the common difficulties