

Business of the House

Mr. Mutch: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Adamson: I still have a profession.

Mr. Mutch: You may need it.

Mr. Adamson: Not as much as you will. Hon. members coming down here expecting to be able to look at legislation objectively—

Mr. Knowles: Would the hon. member be good enough to indicate the relevancy of what he is now saying to an amendment to extend the sitting from ten to twelve o'clock?

Mr. Mutch: You must still believe in miracles.

Mr. Knowles: I submit the hon. member is going far beyond the bounds of the amendment on which he is supposed to be speaking.

Mr. Adamson: I am speaking to an amendment which has the purpose of lengthening the hours of sitting today. I am simply pointing out that if we are required to sit extra hours it is because the business of the house had not been handled efficiently. One reason that has not been done is that many hon. members have become members of parliament first. They have allowed their judgment to be based solely upon what is politically desirable rather than upon what is economically or socially right.

This is one of the most important principles in all the parliaments of the free peoples. Just as soon as members of parliament base their judgment on what is politically desirable rather than what is right you will have a decay and degeneration of the whole political system. This very amendment to which I am speaking, in fact this whole debate, is a protest against the professional parliamentarian who makes a business of politics and comes here with that in view. It is a protest against a trend which is deplorable, which is dangerous. If this debate has not done anything else, it has brought out that.

I want to mention the filibuster, and it was a filibuster, which the Social Credit party put on on the Bretton Woods agreement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not think the Bretton Woods agreement can be mentioned in discussing this amendment.

Mr. Adamson: I shall have to deal with that at another time.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Next session.

Mr. Adamson: Next sitting, or next session, whatever it is. I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, of a happy practice that took place long ago

[Mr. Adamson.]

when we had all-night sittings. Hon. members on one side of the house threw a baseball across the floor to members on the other side so they would keep awake. I think it was a salutary practice. Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment—

An hon. Member: With conviction?

Mr. Adamson: Yes, with conviction, and for the reasons I have stated. I protest now, as I have protested before, against legislation being passed by the squeeze play.

An hon. Member: By a majority.

Mr. Adamson: By a majority, that is correct, but this legislating by exhaustion, by the squeeze play is a dangerous thing. If we are to have closure—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Adamson: This subject has been debated.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): It is out of order just the same, even if it has been debated.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): It is in order by custom.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Speaker has decided it is not debatable on this amendment.

Mr. Adamson: That is something else I shall have to speak about, because I propose to speak on closure. Then, Mr. Speaker, in this amendment we are faced with the suggestion that we sit for two extra hours today. I am sure they will be used profitably for the continuation of the debate on the important matters before the house. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because it is of great importance that there be sufficient time for hon. members to have an objective approach, rather than a frustrated approach or an approach caused by annoyance and exhaustion. I believe the two extra hours we have suggested are the optimum of time this house can profitably use. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of the house for your courtesy in listening to me for these few minutes.

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): I was not here this morning when the motion was made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that the house should sit continuously, which means that it could sit until nearly eleven o'clock tomorrow morning. The hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough) has proposed an amendment that instead of sitting from now until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning we should sit from eight o'clock until twelve o'clock this evening. This results in an extension of two hours beyond the normal