

ing to do so, we should reach a decision as to whether or not it is desirable to go on in the absence of the chairman, who presided at all the meetings last year, and all the meetings this year. It is immaterial to me personally, but if there is any desire on the part of any member of the committee that, owing to the indisposition of the chairman, we should not proceed, I certainly would not want to go on in view of that. If, on the other hand, there is no such desire, it is quite immaterial to me.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: What is the wish of the meeting? I am entirely in the hands of the committee.

Hon. Mr. ELLIOTT: I was going to say, Mr. Chairman, that the way it strikes me—I have not been a very regular attendant at the meetings of the committee—that it does seem desirable to have the one who has been continuously in attendance last year and this year. I have no further view to express than that, but he has given a good deal of time and attention and is thoroughly familiar with the work, and therefore it does seem to me that unless somebody is going to be inconvenienced, it is not desirable to go on in his absence, as there will be plenty of opportunity to do all the work the committee has in mind during the present session.

Mr. KENNEDY: Can anybody assure us that the chairman is likely to be all right next Tuesday?

Hon. Mr. CANNON: I spoke to Major Power yesterday afternoon and he told me that his doctor had ordered him to keep away from the House for a few days. I understood him to mean that he would be available next week, but I do not think that he could be here this week.

Mr. KELLNER: Mr. Chairman, if we are going to adjourn, it should be to a definite date. If Mr. Power is not able to be here then we could appoint another chairman, and not be adjourning indefinitely.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: If Mr. Power is not available next week we will proceed with the work.

Mr. HANSON: Did we not adjourn to a definite date, Tuesday of this week? Why was the Tuesday meeting called off?

Hon. Mr. CANNON: It was understood we were to meet to-day, before the Easter recess.

Mr. BOYS: I can explain that; perhaps in deference to the chairman, who is not here, I should make it plain. Mr. Power saw me Monday afternoon and told me that he had an important meeting of the Pension committee, which was clashing with our meeting that had been called for last Tuesday. Also, as a matter of fact, he wanted me to consider the provisions of a proposed amendment, and perhaps to see some of those associated with me in connection with that, and he made the suggestion that we might adjourn until Thursday. I told him that, as far as I was concerned, it was perfectly satisfactory to have the adjournment till Thursday, and in the end he said that he would take it upon himself to postpone the Tuesday meeting and call it to-day. That is all I know.

Mr. HANSON: That is satisfactory.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Will next Tuesday suit?

Hon. Mr. CANNON: I think next week the budget debate will be on, and we can easily arrange, if necessary, to meet in the afternoon. That debate will last for a while, and there will be many opportunities of meeting, more so than we have had up to now.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: We will meet again on Wednesday, May 7, at 10.30 a.m.

The committee adjourned until Wednesday, May 7, at 10.30 a.m.