

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the suggestion that has been made that we sit until the bill is completed I point out that, as the whole country knows, this is a vitally important matter. We are here to deal with a matter where every hour counts. Producers all over the country are being held up by lack of rail shipment. I think the country expects that we continue sitting if we physically can, and I think we can. This party is thoroughly in favour of sitting until this legislation is completed today.

Mr. McIlraith: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Speaker, surely the crucial nature of the business before us requires us to support the suggestion made by the opposition house leader, the hon. member for Ontario. Unless the government wishes to assure us that it will amend the legislation, I think we should follow his suggestion and sit until the conclusion of the bill.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I had risen to ask a question of the hon. member for Northumberland. I accept his proposition about the importance of the bill and the legislation. That is why last night I asked his leader to agree to the house continuing to sit for a few minutes after ten o'clock in order that he might conclude his remarks. I was quite mystified when he refused that very modest and reasonable request. I am now a little more mystified to find that the hon. member for Northumberland is at variance with his leader on that very point. In any event, the whip of that party has had his leader move an amendment to defeat the legislation altogether and kill the bill.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. McIlraith: I just do not understand his now asking to have the bill, which he has just by his amendment sought to have defeated, put through.

Mr. Churchill: You can bring in another one.

Mr. McIlraith: So the remarks of the house leader for the party, which he has made, I think, in a spirit of desiring to get on with the business before us, are difficult to understand in relation to the remarks of his own colleagues in that party. What I should like to return to is—

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Legislation Respecting Railway Matters

An hon. Member: You are asking for trouble.

Mr. McIlraith: —the simple proposition whether or not the house wishes to have a short adjournment for the dinner hour. So far as we are concerned we are agreeable to that, and we are quite prepared to deal with the question of how late we should sit tonight and to go along with any reasonable proposition on that score. But it should be something that is responsible and reasonable.

Mr. Starr: In view of the house leader's remarks we withdraw any suggestion that we made previously. We should abide by the rules and sit during the dinner hour.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the point of order raised by the government house leader, he should not be sore at the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) who last night wanted to adjourn at ten o'clock because it took him all night to produce the amendment as colorless and insignificant as the one we had this afternoon; I understand him—

[*English*]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTION TO
BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Pursuant to provisional standing order 39A it is my duty to inform the house that the question to be raised at the time of adjournment this evening is the following: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), Canadian Pacific Railway—reported statement respecting pension rights of workers.

MAINTENANCE OF RAILWAY OPERATION ACT

PROVISION FOR RESUMPTION OF RAILWAY
OPERATIONS AND SETTLEMENT OF
LABOUR DISPUTE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson for the second reading of Bill No. C-230, to provide for the resumption of operations of railways and for the settlement of the existing dispute with respect to terms and conditions of employment between railway companies and their employees, and on the amendment of Mr. Diefenbaker.