

of the fact that the ministers, I think properly, are out of the house, I would ask him to raise his point then. Thirteen departments have been called; it is suggested that two more be called tonight, which will leave five yet to be called, so that the hon. gentleman will have ample opportunity. I would ask him to be good enough to accede to my request.

Mr. MacNICOL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has every right to proceed if he wishes to do so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order has as yet been raised.

Mr. MARTIN: This is just a request; there is no doubt about his right.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings-Peterborough): In reply to the request of the hon. gentleman, and in view of the kindly way in which he has referred to me, I would remind him of what took place in the house last Thursday. In my opinion the matter I raised was urgent, and was not something that could be ruled out because it was before the courts. On that occasion some of the hon. gentlemen who sit around the Minister of Health and Welfare did not extend very much courtesy to me. However I would say to the minister that if he would undertake to have supply called tomorrow, not at half-past ten or a quarter to eleven o'clock tomorrow night but tomorrow afternoon, to give me an opportunity of raising the matter I have in mind, I should be glad to accede to his request. I realize that the Minister of Veterans Affairs is not here tonight, and I should be pleased if he were here when I make my statement. But I should not like the matter to go over until next week, or anything like that. If the minister will say that he will arrange to have supply moved tomorrow afternoon I shall be very happy to let the matter stand.

Mr. J. H. HARRIS (Danforth): Just before the minister replies, perhaps I may be permitted to make one or two observations. In the first place, I am a little stunned by the suggestion of the minister that the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. White) might show a little more chivalry. I say to you, sir, and, through you, to the members of this house, that no other individual in this chamber during the last twenty years has exuded as much chivalry as seems to flow from the hon. member who has just taken his seat. As one who does not intervene very often in the debates in this house, I am sorry my hon. and good friend the minister should have let slip that suggestion.

[Mr. Martin.]

In the meantime, what is a day? Speaking as an ordinary member of this House of Commons, I quite appreciate why the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) and the other members of the privy council are absent tonight. They have a right to be absent; they should be where they are, and I am sorry the minister finds it necessary to remain here to represent the government. I am sorry he is charged with the responsibility of trying to get a couple more departments into supply. The function being held elsewhere this evening has the commendation and endorsement of the entire membership of this house and the populace of the Dominion of Canada, but at the same time I hold this reservation. For the sake of a miserable little period of twenty-four hours the government of the day should not seek to force this house to deal with the matter of these additional departments. So I plead for the house to give consideration to the position of the hon. member for Hastings-Peterborough, who, though I suppose not shut off summarily, nevertheless was definitely prevented from introducing a matter which to him was of great moment; more so, perhaps, than to the member for Danforth, because the hon. gentleman knew what he was introducing, he knew the boys on whose behalf he was making the plea, and he had fought with them overseas, which was not the privilege of some of the rest of us.

With respect to all the considerations bound up in this particular question, I ask, through the representative of the government tonight, that he just give us another twenty-four hours, and we will bring the matter in, in an orderly fashion, without any disruption of routine in the carrying on of the business of parliament. Today one of the highest honours has been paid to this nation of only 12,000,000 people by the representative of perhaps 120,000,000 people. So, skip it for twenty-four hours; and, to use the language of the street, let us get on with the government's business tonight.

Mr. MARTIN: I am sure the hon. member to whom I directed my remarks in the first instance did not misunderstand the suggestion I made, and it was because I knew him so well that I felt at liberty to make that suggestion. Since the minister of the department concerned is not in his seat, I do suggest that my original request be acceded to, and I will undertake to make arrangements so that the hon. member will be given sometime in the course of the next few days an opportunity to raise his question.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings-Peterborough): I thank the minister, but I do not like the last few words he used—"the next few days". I ask the minister if he will just state that he