

Business of the House

Mr. Churchill: I think so, too, because the subject is one of considerable importance and the hour is rather late.

May I ask the house leader what estimates we will be taking tomorrow and Thursday, and if there is any proposed change in the hours for tomorrow?

Mr. Pickersgill: I did suggest last evening, sir, taking the last question first, that tomorrow we might agree to sit until 7 p.m. I had hoped there might be some disposition to sit in the evening but there are very good reasons why many hon. members would prefer not to do that. It would be a great convenience to the government if we could sit until 7 p.m.

The estimates we would take tomorrow would be privy council, followed by post office. On Thursday, we would take the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, followed again by post office if there are any items of that department not disposed of tomorrow. I believe I would prefer to make my forecast for the rest of the week after I see what progress we make tomorrow and in the early part of Thursday. I should like to have some consultations with hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. Churchill: We are prepared to sit until 7 p.m. tomorrow night, or later. May I ask the house leader if on Thursday the Department of Agriculture estimates will be taken with or without the minister?

Mr. Pickersgill: I believe the minister will be here and I am quite sure that if the minister is here, he will have something to say.

Mr. Patterson: So far as this group is concerned, we would be prepared to sit until seven or later. We would sit until ten o'clock if it would be of any help.

Mr. Knowles: I think progress towards this goal might be achieved if we had a discussion about it in the morning. The Secretary of State indicated there were reasons hon. members would not sit until ten o'clock, and perhaps we could discuss whether to sit until then, or beyond six.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, we are agreeable to sit till seven o'clock tomorrow night, in compliance with the suggestion made.

[*Text*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that the house will sit until ten o'clock tomorrow evening?

Mr. Peters: No, Mr. Speaker. I have no objection to its being discussed further, but on that basis I would say no.

Mr. Pickersgill: We will accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and see if we can reach some understanding that could be agreed to at the opening tomorrow.

It being twelve minutes after ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put.