

**Mr. Hellyer:** I should be very pleased to check, but I should like to underline the fact that there is no restriction in the National Defence Act, as it presently stands, respecting what my hon. friend says.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### INTERIM SUPPLY—GOVERNMENT MOTION FOR CONTINUOUS SITTINGS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** My question is directed to the government house leader. I would ask him whether it is his intention to hold over the house, like a club, his motion for continuous sittings night and day, in an attempt to intimidate the members of parliament.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** No, Mr. Speaker. The government house leader never had any such intention.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. McIlraith:** But the government house leader did feel, when he returned last week, that such conduct was going on in relation to the right of the government to have the matter of supply considered and decided that it was only prudent, under those circumstances, to put on the order paper a motion that would give all hon. members opposite an opportunity to debate the subject matter, that apparently was very much in their minds, for as long as they wished to do so.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** The hon. gentleman mentioned his return. That was the return from Moscow, was it not?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Churchill:** My supplementary question to the government house leader is this: Is this a result of his visit to Moscow, and does he prefer their type of government to the parliamentary system?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This question is entirely out of order.

**Mr. McIlraith:** On a question of privilege—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Answering the question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order in the House of Commons, please?

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. I believe that I have a right under our practice, to make an answer to such inferences and charges as were contained in the assertion of the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

**Mr. Churchill:** I asked you your preference.

**Mr. McIlraith:** I can do that best by telling them that I was appalled at the lack of regard for parliamentary rights that I found on my return on Thursday, and that I am prepared to debate that subject with both of them, together, at any time.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the question of privilege brought up by the Minister of Public Works, I want to address my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In order that parliament may function properly without any resentment, and without holding a club over the heads of members of parliament, would not the Prime Minister consider asking for unanimous consent to withdrawing the motion in question?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** This is not a club; this is an opportunity. I point out to my hon. friend that under our rules 30 days are available for debate on all forms of supply. Six, or at the most, seven days are now available, because of all the time that has been taken up on interim supply. So if we are to continue with interim supply, and deal also with the other appropriations in six days, we may have to sit beyond the regular hours so that members of parliament will be given a chance to speak.

**Mr. Starr:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does not the Prime Minister consider that it would be more favourable to have unanimous agreement to sit longer hours than to have a motion of this kind hanging over the heads of all hon. members?

**Mr. Pearson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, but when we asked last Thursday night for unanimous consent to sit until midnight, that was turned down by my hon. friends opposite.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I would not want in any way—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —to ask any questions which would be embarrassing. When the government house leader was in Moscow he