

No. 61

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1968.

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2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: In a very learned presentation the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) suggested yesterday that the motion to concur in the Procedure Committee's Fourth Report should be debated in Committee of the Whole rather than by a motion to concur therein with the Speaker in the Chair. The honourable Member quoted a number of precedents going back to Confederation which he submits support the view that the Report presented by the honourable Member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) should be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Since yesterday, as I have noted, a review has been made of all instances when rules changes were proposed for the consideration of the House of Commons, beginning with and including the enactment of the first set of rules in 1967 but excluding the motions now before the House. There have been 29 such occasions. Many of these proposals, of course, were concerned with minor changes only; but some of the amendments which, at least at the time they were proposed, could be considered as substantial were in fact debated with the Speaker in the Chair: they were not considered in Committee of the Whole.

For example, the 1952 amendments dealt with hours of adjournment, time of meeting and the consideration of Private Members' Business. In that case the Report of the Special Committee was considered by motion to concur in the Committee Report; there was no reference to the Committee of the Whole.

The honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre mentioned the rules changes in 1960-61 and in 1962. These alterations, I submit, were not inconsequential. The rules of procedure were amended, for instance, to reduce the speaking time when Private Members' Business is considered. The Address De-