

*House of Commons Procedures*

section that I am sure will be acceptable to the Government, but I wonder whether this will grant the power to a minority who may be opposed to prevent the majority from proceeding to deal with an additional stage at that late hour. I think we should always realize the fact that on occasions Governments do bow to Opposition objections and it may be that at two or three o'clock in the morning, or later, it is easier to arrive at progressive amendments than at other times. If agreement is arrived at to give second reading to a measure, it is probable that the introduction of third reading and passage of the bill would also be warranted.

I think the Members of this Committee will be very asinine if they lay down rules that do not accomplish what we want, but the very opposite. If in the end we arrive at a point where we cannot progress with the business at a more rapid rate through the usual method of amendment and agreement, these rules will be a detriment rather than an asset.

**The Chairman:** The Committee has heard the amendment moved by the hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre. Shall the amendment carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Peters:** On division.

Amendment (Mr. Knowles) agreed to on division.

**The Chairman:** Does this conclude the discussion of section 1?

**Mr. Otto:** Mr. Chairman, I have one question. The second last speaker said that the Government would have the power to move a motion. As I read paragraph 2, it provides for the making of a motion that the House continue to sit. Does this mean that only the Government can make such a motion or that any Member may do so?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Any Member may make it.

**Mr. Howard:** In practice only the Government will take advantage of this provision.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Chairman, I am always hopeful that the hon. Member for Skeena may change, and possibly he will be moving such a motion many times in the future. Who knows?

**Mr. Knowles:** Don't suggest it; he might do it.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Some of us do not share that hope.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Chairman, I want to propose an amendment which is being moved at the request of some hon. Members. It has to do with the clarification of section 2 of the proposed new Standing Order. A question was raised as to whether or not it was sufficiently clear that the Speaker had the authority to interrupt the proceedings after the supper hour and call the postponed vote. In order to improve the wording and make it clear that it was the intention that Mr. Speaker should have the right to interrupt whatever proceedings were going on after the supper hour and take the postponed vote, I move:

That clause 1 of the proposed resolution be amended by striking out section 3 of the proposed Standing Order 6 and substituting therefor:

"Standing Order 6 Section (3).

If any Member objects to the taking of a vote at any time between 1.00 o'clock p.m. and 2.30 o'clock p.m. or between 6:00 o'clock p.m. and 8.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker shall request those Members who object to rise in their places and if five or more Members rise, the taking of the vote shall be postponed. At 2:30 o'clock p.m. or at 8:00 o'clock p.m., as the case may be, Mr. Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings then before the House and shall put or cause to be put the question on any postponed vote. The House shall be deemed to have reverted to private Members' business for such time as is necessary for the taking of any vote postponed from the time provided for private Members' business."

It will be seen that this is merely a clarification of the point in order to make it very clear that Mr. Speaker has the authority to interrupt any proceedings before the House for the purpose of taking a postponed vote.

**Mr. Lambert:** Briefly, Mr. Chairman, this meets the point I had raised privately.

**The Chairman:** Shall the amendment carry?

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, I think this point is clear but, as did the Minister of Transport, I should like to make sure that silence does not mean consent and that in supporting this amendment we are not supporting thereby some of the principles that arise that make this amendment necessary. In other words, if we allow this amendment to carry it does not mean that the resolution cannot be further amended in such a way as to make the proposed provision in effect null and void or superfluous.

**The Chairman:** Shall the amendment carry?

Amendment (Mr. McIlraith) agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Does this conclude the discussion on section 1?