

National Defence Act Amendment

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I think I might as well call it seven o'clock and begin my remarks later. I therefore call it seven o'clock.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: Order. I do not know what is the wish of the Committee, but there is no order of the house to suspend the sitting at seven o'clock.

Mr. Hellyer: Then perhaps, Mr. Chairman, you will rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again later this day, and an order of the house could be made to resume at eight o'clock, if this is agreed.

The Chairman: Shall I rise, report progress and request leave to sit again later this day?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Progress reported.

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Chambly-Rouville (Mr. Pilon):

That the sitting of the house today be suspended from 7 o'clock p.m. to 8 o'clock p.m.

Motion agreed to.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), transport—request for restoration of service on Kettle Valley Railway; the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan), immigration—reported discrimination in admission of immigrants from Poland; the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis), historic sites and monuments—Louisbourg fortress—return to work of men laid off.

Perhaps the house would agree, before suspending the sitting, to return to consideration in committee of the bill before it a few moments ago.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Knowles.]

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT

AMALGAMATION OF NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-243, to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof.

The Chairman: The sitting is suspended from now until eight o'clock.

SITTING SUSPENDED

[Translation]

SITTING RESUMED

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: When the committee rose at seven o'clock, it was considering clause 2.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, before getting into the subject matter of the brief remarks I propose to make, may I be allowed to express our pleasure at your return to the house after your stay in the hospital. We earnestly hope your health will continue to improve so that you may as in the past have the patience to listen to us.

This afternoon we have heard military experts such as the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer), the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) as well as the brilliant lawyer who spoke for the New Democratic Party.

Tonight I should like to speak for the businessmen, the owners of small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, I admit at the outset that I am no expert in military matters; that is why I shall only make general remarks and give a brief summary of our military organization as seen by a civilian.

• (8:10 p.m.)

This afternoon the minister expressed his views on the military reform. He spoke as the soldier he is; he defended his position well; he spoke as a businessman would have done to protect his interests; as a labour leader would have pleaded the cause of his union. Now, I admire the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) and I always did, because he is strong willed, and when he has made up his mind, I think he has thoroughly thought out his decision before announcing it to the house.