

Supply

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have had an opportunity of discussing the business of this debate with the government House leader. I apologize for not having had the time to have a similar discussion with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and the House leader of the Social Credit party. We are prepared to agree to the following method of handling the conclusion of this debate. We have one further speaker on this item and we are prepared to terminate it at that. We would then like to move today into a discussion of the three notices together dealing with the estimates of the Department of Health and Welfare, that is items Nos. 6, 7 and 8 on the order paper. I hope that the government House leader and the other House leaders will agree that, since we are prepared to deal with these three items together, we might have general agreement to extend the normal 20 minute limit on speeches to 30 minutes for this debate.

We are then prepared to let all the other notices go at this stage, saving only item No. 3 which we propose should be dealt with and completed on Monday. We would then be prepared to have the appropriation bill introduced on Tuesday. Further, we would be prepared to allow all notices, including the appropriation bill, when we get to second and third reading go without recorded divisions. This is in that spirit of co-operation that the government House leader requested of us yesterday or the day before. If that is agreeable, we are prepared to proceed along those lines.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I accept the hon. member's apology for not having spoken to the rest of us about this matter, but I suggest it is the sort of matter we ought to discuss among the four of us. Perhaps we can do so during the lunch hour.

I suggest, however, that if the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) is in a mood to co-operate, he should go a little further and develop a scheme under which we might dispose of all these nine opposed items not later than the first thing Monday. Let us get to the bill by Monday. In making that suggestion, I repeat that I am not cutting off anybody because on second reading of the bill and in committee of the whole on the bill, particularly on the schedule, the field is wide open.

My suggestion is that we proceed as we were until one o'clock and that we try to meet during the lunch hour to come up with something, but our aim should be to get to second reading of the bill just as soon as we can.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, if that is the only point that is concerning the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, we will concede it and get these notices out of the way on Monday. Then, we could get to the bill sometime early on Monday, if that is agreeable.

• (1210)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is agreeable, but I do not think the hon. member should make a decision for the House on the floor. I think the matter should be discussed among the parties.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Nielsen: I was making no decision. I was simply agreeing with the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Obviously, everyone is agreed on the point, but the suggestion has been made that there should be meetings outside the House. It is my feeling that it is always somewhat difficult to reach agreements of this kind in the chamber by questions and answers when four parties are concerned. I notice there is no one here at the moment to speak on behalf of the other party in the House. I am, of course, entirely in the hands of hon. members but it seems to me at this point that though there appears to be agreement it would be difficult to make an order. If hon. members wish me to inquire whether an order should be made, as suggested by the hon. member for Yukon, I am prepared to do so, although obviously the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre feels there should be discussion. So, I shall not put the question at this time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Supplementary to what has been said, and in an effort to make some progress, I think we can agree that immediately the discussion is over on notice of opposition No. 2 we would discuss notices 6, 7 and 8 in one debate. That would take care of things for a little while.

Mr. Nielsen: Normally, members would be allowed to speak for 20 minutes on each item. I am suggesting 30 minutes on the three.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will agree with almost anything these days to get progress in the House, to be quite frank about it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: What Stanley wants, Stanley gets.

Mr. MacEachen: I hope the latter suggestion will be accepted, because I shall not be able to meet with the House leaders until some time after 2.30. If we can agree that when the debate is finished on the present item we shall go on to the health items we can meet later and decide on the next step.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: We have agreed on that point, I am sure. But I am not sure there is agreement on the 30 minute limit suggestion. Is that agreed, also?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Alexander: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I had completed my few remarks in the time allotted to me last night and, reluctantly, I discontinue.

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, there is such great co-operation being shown here that it is with some reluctance I rise as, I believe, the final speaker on this item. I should like to say I am in agreement with the aim of this vote, in the amount of \$350 million for the winter capital works fund. I feel it is one of the better