

*Business of the House*

There was one other point I had in connection with this debate, but perhaps Your Honour may not feel that I am in order in raising it. What disturbed me also was that in the course of the debate, although the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) indicated that he had no intention of taking part, nevertheless he made a statement—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Churchill:**—and it is in that regard that I should like some direction as to what course the debate should now take. If statements are made—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Churchill:** I am asking this in all seriousness and in order to gain instruction. If during the course of the debate hon. members make statements of any sort—

**Mr. Robinson:** Order.

**Mr. Churchill:**—that may be interpreted as having an influence on the course—

**Mr. Robinson:** I must rise to a point of order. Is this relevant to the discussion now before the house?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know yet what the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre proposes to say. He has referred to something that was said earlier in the day. Certainly he would have to relate it to the amendment for it to be in order.

**Mr. Churchill:** I was just coming to the conclusion of that question. My point is simply that if statements are made by any hon. member in the course of the debate that have a bearing on the motion or amendment, which relate to the hours of sitting, and if that statement indicates that if the sitting is not prolonged something else is going to happen, then my question is whether we may not debate that particular statement. The statement, of course, was the reference to closure.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will not allow a debate on closure at this time.

**Mr. Churchill:** I am grateful for the direction, because that was the point I was not sure about. I shall conclude my remarks now by asking the house to support the amendment extending the hours of sitting by two hours tonight so we can come to grips with the problems ahead of us and then resume the normal procedure tomorrow after a proper night's rest, when we will be fresh and able to deal with these important matters.

**Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East):** Mr. Speaker, never in the past have I taken any part in procedural arguments in the house.

**Mr. Winters:** This is different.

**An hon. Member:** Why start now?

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** Do not be in a hurry. We have all winter to debate this matter if you like. Today we have seen something happen that has never occurred before in my experience.

**An hon. Member:** Quite true.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:** An unofficial attempt at closure by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles); that is what we have seen today.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** On many occasions we have seen the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre get up and debate procedure and defend the rights of minorities. He has taken as much time as any member in the house, and in fact I would say the time of scores of members added together. But today, when all had been said that his party wanted to say, he was quite prepared to do away with the time of all the rest of the members. That is but an indication of the line of thought of socialists throughout the world. Once they come to power by democratic means it is not very long before they throw their weight around in an autocratic manner just as we have seen today, when they thought they had a chance of grasping power and immediately proceeded to attempt it. So I support the amendment moved by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mrs. Fairclough). I think we should get on with our work.

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

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** I do not propose to be pushed into it by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) or anyone else.

**Mr. J. A. Charlton (Brant-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member for Middlesex East (Mr. White), never before have I taken part in a procedural debate during the short time I have been a member of this House of Commons. I think hon. members will admit that I have taken up very little time in this house, but I can stand here all night if necessary. We have seen today a most peculiar set of circumstances, the most peculiar I have seen since coming to this house. At eleven o'clock this morning a motion was moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) in co-operation, we will say, with others. At 2.30 this afternoon they had all the opportunity in the world to make any speeches they