

Procedure and Organization

or fourteen. We shall all be here for quite a while. On this matter no one in opposition is bluffing, and I wish to emphasize to hon. members on the government side that we are not bluffing.

Although it is not quite six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, may I, since I wish to draw up some more notes for further comments, call it six o'clock at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before we call it six o'clock, may I advise hon. members of the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment. They are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Post Office Department, Vancouver—dissatisfaction of letter carriers with five day delivery; the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett)—Unemployment Insurance—government policy respecting modification of operation; the hon. member for Thunder Bay (Mr. Penner)—Water Resources—diversion of waters from Hudson and James Bays.

It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Blair that the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization presented to the house on Friday, June 20, 1969, be concurred in, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Baldwin (p. 10963).

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, at six o'clock I must confess I was still struggling. I hope that during whatever time I have left I will not appear to be

struggling, even if I am. First, I wish to apologize for my sore throat. It is what is called convention throat or preacher's throat. I just returned from a New Democratic Party convention in Saskatoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I imagine the house is not interested in that at this moment. Speak to the amendment.

Mr. Benjamin: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I was afraid that by the time I was through Your Honour would have wished I had given an explanation.

At six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was asking when and if a government speaker would get up to present some evidence to this house of opposition obstruction, deliberate or otherwise, to their legislation in order to present a concrete case for their need for rule 75c. None have yet done so. Previous Liberal speakers have failed to present any argument or evidence to support any contention for their need of 75c.

Earlier this evening I quoted some figures concerning the performance of this house to date. If I may, I would like to amend those figures slightly. We have sat for 188 days. We have not taken all the fixed days that are permitted under the rules. Six days in September were used for the throne speech debate instead of eight. The other two days went to the government for their use. Six days in October were spent on the budget debate, the full time. Four days this spring were spent on a budget debate, two less than the rules provided for, which meant two more days for the government.

There were 16 opposition days, Mr. Speaker, instead of the 19 to which we were entitled. We agreed we would use 1 of those 19 days as an extra day, so that we might have two days on a NATO debate. The other two days we are still entitled to and have not yet had. We agreed to hold over these two days until, the next session. I have my doubts that we will get them. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to make a little bet with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that we will not get them. There are two more opposition days which we gave up. That is a total of six extra days for the government.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker; I voted against public lotteries!

Mr. Benjamin: I wonder if the Liberal backbenchers are aware of this kind of co-