

The Chairman: Is it the wish of the committee to revert to clause 37?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

On clause 37—*Ministerial staffs*.

The Chairman: Shall the amendment carry?

Mr. Knowles: On division.

Amendment agreed to on division.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): I have a brief comment to make in connection with clause 37. Under this clause a statutory right to a position is extended to those individuals who are mentioned—executive assistants, special assistants, and so on. Since this statutory right has not always been given promptly but in some instances has been delayed for months and months, this has caused some difficulty. Recently a case came to my attention in which a person holding a position as of statutory right had been red circled. I want to suggest that the red circling of a position held by an individual who has been granted that position as a statutory right is quite improper. I intend to draw the circumstances to the attention of the chairman of the Public Service Commission. When parliament requires that an individual have a role at a certain level, I think that level ought not, indeed really cannot, be reduced, although I understand a legal opinion by the law officers to the contrary has been obtained. This is the only comment I wish to make.

The Chairman: Shall clause 37 carry?

Mr. Knowles: On division.

Clause agreed to.

Progress reported.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

EXTENSION OF ORDER GOVERNING HOURS OF SITTING

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have a motion that I should like to put forward concerning the interruption of the sittings for luncheon and for dinner. I should like to move:

That the order of the house adopted on February 3, 1967, and appearing on page 1282 of *Votes and Proceedings* of that date suspending the sittings of the house from seven o'clock p.m. to eight o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and from one o'clock p.m. to two o'clock p.m. on Fridays, be extended for a further two week period commencing February 20, 1967.

Mr. Knowles: By leave, agreed.

Employment in Public Service

Mr. Bell (Carleton): We are in favour of this motion and would be glad to extend it to the end of the session.

Motion agreed to.

● (7:00 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the wish of the house that we resume the business interrupted a few moments ago?.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PUBLIC SERVICE

LEGISLATION RESPECTING EMPLOYMENT IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-181, respecting employment in the public service of Canada—Mr. Pearson—Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Chairman: Order. House in committee of the whole on Bill No. C-181.

Pursuant to an order of the house just made, this sitting stands suspended until eight o'clock.

SITTING SUSPENDED

SITTING RESUMED

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

The Chairman: Order, please. Prior to the dinner hour the committee had been considering clause 32 and the amendment thereto moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. The clause was then stood. Is it the wish to the committee to proceed with that clause now?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Amendment (Mr. Knowles) negatived: Yeas 23; nays 44.

The Chairman: Shall clause 32 carry?

Mr. Barnett: I have been reflecting upon the remarks made before dinner by the President of the Treasury Board. I am wondering, in following his line of logic and the parallel he drew with certain things not being declared, or as not being unlawful—and these things are not spelled out in the bill—whether the minister could not delete clause 32 entirely. The matter would then be left to the judgment of the people in the public service. We agree that in the past these people have shown and most likely in the future they will continue to show the right kind of judgment, without entering into any form of partisan activity.