

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. At 4.45 in the morning it seems to me, speaking as a humble individual, that a more rational proposition would have been that we adjourn. The hon. member's proposition is that we assume we are continuing with the debate and that we resume our sitting at two o'clock this afternoon. Do I understand this to be the hon. member's proposition?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is, Mr. Speaker. It would be my preference that we adjourn, but I know of no way that we can do it unless there is not a quorum. I hope that if we do accept the proposition to start Friday's sitting at two o'clock in the afternoon, even so we will bring this sitting to a close as soon as we can.

Mr. Bell: In expressing agreement with the two o'clock sitting I might say that we have two speeches to hear. As far as we are concerned, this would be the extent of our participation in the remaining part of the debate.

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, to my mind, all parliamentarians, the staff of the House of Commons, as well as the Chair have shown much good will and energy by working till 4.45 a.m.

In any event, I would not like to object to our pursuing our work, but I would like us to respect the schedule established for Friday when we normally sit at 11 o'clock. I would very much like us to respect it so that no one is forced to work at night, under the pretext that we can start later.

For my part, all my life, when I have had to work late at night, it did not keep me from rising early in the morning.

I acquired that habit. I am quite willing to continue to do so, even as a parliamentarian. I am ready to continue our sitting and would very much appreciate it if our schedule for Friday were not altered, when we normally sit at 11 a.m.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I would be happy to hear the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) who, in view of the responsibilities he has assumed tonight, has acquired a very special wisdom.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I imagine that, with the co-operation of all hon. members, I should thank the Chair for having invited me to sit as Acting Speaker for an hour.

This was a great honour for me and I think that my constituents will greatly appreciate it.

Now I would like to co-operate with all the party representatives so that the House may sit tomorrow at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. as the case may be, but I shall certainly be in my usual place to see to the interests of my constituents, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I must consider the views expressed by the hon. members who took part in the discussion concerning the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). The hon. member for Bellechasse has suggested that the House should sit at 11 a.m. as provided by our Standing Orders—

Cost of Living

[English]

I doubt very much that without unanimous consent it would be within the power of the Chair to determine that we would meet at two o'clock in the afternoon rather than eleven in the morning. I would assume that a motion to that effect would have to be made, seconded, the question put and perhaps the bells rung. I am not sure whether we would not wake the rest of the citizenry if we rang the bells at five o'clock in the morning.

In view of the comments submitted by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) I wonder if we could not agree that we will continue this very interesting debate in the very few minutes that are left of it, as I understand from what was said by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell), and meet at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Again, I am in the hands of the House.

Mr. Nowlan: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) could fit the act of the possible with that which should be practical. In this sense he could still conform to his natural habit of rising early and carrying on his duties as a member of parliament, attending at his office and doing those duties that a member does, while we give the staff a much needed break. It is a break which they deserve, because while members have been coming and going to this chamber, the staff has been here constantly.

In that way there would be no conflict with anybody's discipline or duties. I, too, rise early and will be doing something early this morning besides participating in this debate. I hope the hon. member will consider that suggestion.

• (0450)

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, under the terms of Standing Order 42(1), I believe I can move a motion that the sitting of this House on Friday, September 14, 1973, commence at two o'clock p.m. I would be prepared to do so. I gather the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) will second the motion. However, there is not much point in doing that if it is going to be debated and results in calling in the members for a vote.

I wonder if I can join the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) and simply appeal to my good friend, the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) to make it unanimous. The point is well taken that we should be on the job in the morning, but can we not make it unanimous, for the sake of the staff, and agree that we meet tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock, rather than making a motion and going through the formality I have mentioned?

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, as a result of the representations which have just been made by my colleagues of the Progressive Conservative party and the New Democratic Party and considering the work and the burden laid down on the staff of the House as well as on the Chair, I am quite ready to reconsider my position and to accede to the request which has just been made to alter