

Question of Privilege

Mr. Knowles: With respect, Mr. Speaker, I would invite Your Honour to reconsider the position which you have taken in respect of Standing Order 25. Standing Order 25 is quite clear when it says that a second motion to adjourn cannot be made until some intermediate proceeding has been had.

Most of us here in this house are aware of the position. In 1956 this sort of thing was tried and we found out what were the rules. I submit that a motion to adjourn is in order at any time provided it follows some intermediate proceeding between the motion and the last time there was a motion to adjourn.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that an intermediate proceeding as defined in the authorities is something that is entered in the *Journals*. There will be an entry in the *Journals* for today that the house met at 2.30. Motions which have been made will appear in the *Journals*. I submit that the motion to adjourn the house till six o'clock comes after intermediate proceedings since the last time there was a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: I might say I am rather impressed by the argument of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, but there is another difficulty. By using the words "that this house stand adjourned till six o'clock this day" the hon. member has placed a condition on the normal motion so it cannot be moved in this way. It becomes a substantive motion and we would require notice of a substantive motion. If the motion were simply that this house do now adjourn I would agree with the hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre that probably it could be moved.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, in the interests—

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member continuing to speak on the point of order?

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, in the interests of parliament I move, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena:

That this house do now adjourn.

Mr. McIlraith: The hon. member rose on a point of order, and cannot, therefore put a motion. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Fairweather: It is not debatable.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has moved a motion while speaking on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member had the floor on a point of order, which was the only way he could get the floor at the time. I am sure he will recognize that. I think the Chair has the right to recognize the Minister of Public Works on the point of order.

• (4:20 p.m.)

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I think all hon. members will agree that there is a grave and serious matter concerning members of the house at the moment. That being so, I would point out that the Prime Minister, who has the senior responsibility in the house as leader, did make a suggestion a few minutes ago that was not accepted. In the last few minutes we have been in danger of getting away from the issue into procedural discussions and wranglings that really serve no useful purpose. I have a suggestion that I would ask hon. members to listen to and consider.

The business indicated for the house this afternoon was, I think I can properly say, three rather routine motions to set up committees—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. McIlraith:—and a small bill.

An hon. Member: Order. There is a motion.

Mr. McIlraith: I would suggest that the house give the Speaker an opportunity to consider the grave matter that is before him relating to a motion on a matter of real substance and concern to the house, which I feel is the best way of doing it.

Mr. Churchill: Just a moment, Mr. Speaker. On a point of order—

Mr. McIlraith: In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we could go along in the usual way—

Mr. Nielsen: No. This is far too important.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is a question of procedure.

Mr. McIlraith:—and consider the matters I have indicated—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. McIlraith:—which are not of a very major nature.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. McIlraith: I believe that that course of action would permit the house to consider the very important matter before it in a calmer and more careful way, and not prejudice it by means of an immediate consideration of—