

*Procedure and Organization*

Last Monday we were not discussing rules. We had a hassle about whether the government house leader or committee chairman should have the honour of beginning this debate. That hassle took the whole day, so on Monday we were not discussing rule changes. And what happened on Tuesday? The government house leader withdrew his motion in order to allow the committee chairman to proceed with his report. On Tuesday ten members took part in the debate which lasted approximately five hours. The lead off speaker, the chairman of the committee, began talking in this rules debate at 2.50 p.m. last Tuesday. Altogether three Liberals, three Conservatives, two N.D.P. and two Creditiste members took part in that debate, one Creditiste member carrying over into the following day. As I say, we had five hours of debating time. On Wednesday five speakers, one of them being the carry over Creditiste member, spoke for three hours. The other speakers included two Liberals, one Conservative and one from the N.D.P.

On Thursday we had two hours of debating time, the house rising early because there were not enough members here to constitute a quorum. There were four speakers including one Liberal, two Conservatives and one from the N.D.P. Altogether up to that time there had been ten hours of debate in the house, and the Prime Minister got up and announced to the nation that this was a filibuster.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Harding:** I say to hon. members opposite, it is about time you understood what is going on and did something about it. We are hearing talk today about a filibuster being in progress. Last Friday we debated the rule change for one hour and 55 minutes. If we ignore debating time for today, we have spent less than 12 hours in debating these rule changes, and government members from all parts of Canada are talking about a rules filibuster. I say that if this is your definition of a filibuster—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member to remind him that he should at all times address the Chair.

**Mr. Harding:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this is the government's definition of a filibuster then I am afraid that in future debates this house is in for a lot of trouble.

In summarizing, may I point out that until the end of last Friday's sitting 21 speakers [Mr. Harding.]

had taken part in this debate. There were seven Liberals, eight Conservatives, four from the N.D.P. and two Creditistes. Although there has been much talk about a filibuster in this chamber, no one group in particular can be accused of having carried it on.

I support the amendment of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). He proposes in his amendment to send this matter back to committee so that it can deal with 75c.

• (4:50 p.m.)

Rule changes in any parliamentary democracy should be made by agreement and not by force. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, agreement can be reached on sensible changes required to make a modern parliamentary system work effectively. We have had that agreement. We saw it last fall when major rule changes were made in this house by agreement. It must be obvious to everyone there will never be agreement by the opposition parties to the dictatorial powers proposed by this administration in rule 75c.

I believe this parliament for the most part is made up of reasonable members. They are found in every party. Despite their various political philosophies most hon. members want to make our parliamentary democracy function efficiently and well. I suggest to the house and to the government house leader in particular that rule 75c should be withdrawn by the government and sent back to the committee for redrafting.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Harding:** I will be very happy if Mr. Speaker will permit it.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The hon. member has suggested that it be sent back for redrafting. He therefore opposes the motion of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) who proposes its deletion altogether.

**Mr. Harding:** Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the amendment to send this draft back to the committee. I believe changes can be worked out. That is why this debate has been good. We have been trying to convince the government house leader and others that if these rule changes are to be effective and co-operatively used in the house, they must have the endorsement of all groups. Again I urge the government house leader to consider sending it back. Members are not unreasonable. If the Special Committee on Rules had been com-