

formally by Mr. Hollett. On Wednesday I deferred it for 48 hours. It can hardly be alleged that the thing was railroaded through and that every member was not given sufficient opportunity to speak to the business then before the Chair. As I intimated on Wednesday and again yesterday afternoon, I think I have exercised my discretion to the utmost limits. I feel now that the time has come when the fate of this motion must become the responsibility of the House. Before I put the motion, I want to make it clear that it is not debatable, not amendable. The House therefore must accept or reject the motion as is. The motion before the Chair is "that the debate on the proposals received on November 6 from the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister of Canada shall not be further adjourned."

[The motion carried]

Mr. Higgins Before going on to the next order on the order paper, I would like to make a suggestion to you and to the House. It appears fairly definite now that we are going to try and conclude our business before the end of this month. That would give us very little more than ten clear days between now and the end of our sessions. We have given no thought or no definite expressed thought to the idea of how we are going to conclude the business of the house — how we are going to finally wind up the Convention, what procedure we should take, whether it should be by formal report drafted by a committee of the House or some other such procedure, or just in what form the final wind-up should be made. For that reason I feel that before we go on to another matter, because of the shortness of time, it would be advisable in the interests of members and the business of the House, if instead of discussing the next motion we decided to go into a private meeting immediately after we adjourn, if members are agreeable to adjourn, to discuss the whole matter. With that idea in mind and with the consent of the whole House, I now move that we adjourn until Monday or Tuesday and immediately following the finalisation of the orders of

the day, we should have that private session. I move that, and feel that not only will we be expediting our business but will certainly be doing something of great value.

Mr. Chairman I think the point is very well taken. As members will recall, section 3 lays upon this Convention the duty of making recommendations. Further than that, standing order 39 requires members to make a report to the Secretary of State for Dominions Affairs on the forms of government which, in the opinion of the Convention, would be inserted in the referendum presumably to take place next spring. The matter has given me considerable concern; and while I have some ideas about it, I would like to put them before members and have an exchange of ideas. We have to decide future procedure particularly in view of the fact that time is running out. The sooner we get at it, the sooner we will know where everybody is. The House must decide what is going to happen. I associate myself unqualifiedly with the view expressed by Mr. Higgins. I do not know how other members feel about it.

Mr. Hickman I would like to say that for four days and four nights most of the members have spoken and I doubt if very many are ready to continue the debate on this motion. The next two days would give them a good opportunity to prepare to go on. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion to adjourn, and say 15 minutes later to have a private session.

Mr. Chairman It will be a double-barrelled motion. Would the House please consider whether or not a motion to adjourn is put and carried, whether we should adjourn to Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. Smallwood As we have merely ten days left — I am agreeable to having a private session this afternoon — I think we should adjourn until Monday, not Tuesday.

Mr. Hickman I agree with that.

[The Convention adjourned until January 19]

January 19, 1948

Mr. Chairman Before we begin the order of business for today, may I direct the attention of members to the fact that the broadcasts of sittings are just about two days behind time, and if we continue with regular night sessions it is an-

ticipated that we will be about a week behind time when the formal closing, which is scheduled to take place on January 30, does in fact take place.

I am ready and willing to sit in regular evening sessions Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or on