

occupies the floor, I will assume that they or he as the case may be, are not interested in expressing any further views on the Economic Report.

Mr. Smallwood That is not quite the case. Parliamentary practice provides that when a man moves a resolution he is entitled to make two speeches, when he moves it, and when he closes the debate. After he has closed the debate no one else may speak. In committee of the whole that is not the rule. No one has the right to close the debate in committee of the whole. He may be lucky enough to be the last speaker, but no one has the right to be the last.

Mr. Higgins You have actually given your ruling on that, Mr. Chairman. You said if no one else proposed to speak, you assumed the debate to be closed.

Mr. Chairman It is time I made my position clear on the matter. The debate will be presumed to be tentatively closed by virtue of the fact that if no member occupies the floor, I must assume no member is interested at this moment in addressing himself any further on the Economic Report. In view of the fact that it has been found that the introduction of Mr. Howell might very well result in some new evidence coming before the committee, and in view of the fact that a motion to adopt would be deferred from day to day until it has been determined when and if Mr. Howell is appearing before the committee of the whole, I am afraid, Mr. Smallwood, that I intend to call upon Major Cashin to conclude, or tentatively conclude, the debate on the Economic Report. I must assume a member is not interested at this moment in addressing himself further if he does not rise. I am not going to call members up if they do not get up voluntarily. At this time it is proposed to defer from day to day.

Mr. Higgins If Mr. Howell does not meet us, this will be the final part of the debate?

Mr. Chairman I do not see what further matter there will be to debate. Let us deal with the present position before the Chair. The position is tentative pending the determination as to whether or not Mr. Howell is prepared to appear. If he does not appear, I think you are justified in assuming for all practical purposes that the speech which Major Cashin will ultimately make in reply may be fairly regarded as the final speech.

Mr. Smallwood It may be, but not necessarily so. When Major Cashin finishes his speech, if any

member wishes to speak, he has a perfect right to do so in committee of the whole. Speaking for myself, I hope I will not feel like commenting on Major Cashin's speech. I cannot guarantee that. I have not heard his speech.

Mr. Chairman Let me remind you that if upon the termination of Major Cashin's reply a motion to adopt the report was placed before me, you would have the right to speak to the motion, and any member has a right to move that the question be put without further debate and I would have to put it.

Mr. Cashin Do I understand the situation now? Before I go ahead, when I wind up this farce here this afternoon, I can move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again and that this report can be adopted or not adopted later on?

Mr. Chairman If the motion made by you is to the effect that the committee rise and report progress, that is going to remain on the order paper until disposed of, I presume pending the hiatus between the termination of your speech and the appearance of Mr. Howell....

Mr. Smallwood Neither Major Cashin or anyone else has the right to wind up the debate. He may be lucky enough. He has not the right. Such right does not exist.

Mr. Chairman Let us not be too technical. If no other member desires to speak to the report, and Major Cashin has to reply to no end of questions addressed to him, surely in calling upon Major Cashin, I do so upon the fair assumption that no other member desires to express himself further at the moment. They can address themselves when the report comes up for adoption.

Mr. Smallwood Yes, and also as long as the house is in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman If Major Cashin, upon the conclusion of his speech, moves that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, I am going to put that motion. If it is carried, I then propose going back to the Chair.

Mr. Smallwood If he makes that motion, that motion is debatable.

Mr. Higgins The motion to put the question is not debatable.

Mr. Chairman I am not under the impression that this matter is of necessity finally disposed of by Major Cashin's speech, if that is what you mean.... In conformity with the rules I ask you to