Mr. RICHARDSON. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts tell us the nature of the engagements of members this evening?

Mr. KNOX. I think the gentleman is informed as to that.

Mr. McRAE. I do not want to lose the right to offer an amendment to this section.

Mr. KNOX. I have just asked unanimous consent that this section may be considered as pending in the morning.

The CHAIRMAN. The section will be pending unless the bill is still further read.

Mr. KNOX. I move that the committee do now rise.

Mr. HEPBURN. Mr. Chairman, a parliamentary inquiry.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. HEPBURN. Under the order that the bill be recommitted to the committee to finish the reading of it, is it competent for the gentleman to make the motion that he has now made?

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Iowa make the point of order against the motion?

Mr. HEPBURN. I make the point of order.

Mr. RICHARDSON. What is the point of order?

Mr. HEPBURN. The point of order is that under the order of the House it is not competent for the committee to rise until the reading of this bill is finished.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There was no such limitation as that in my request.

Mr. HEPBURN. It was made at the request of the gentleman.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Not at all.

Mr. HEPBURN. And I think the Speaker so explained it.

Mr. RICHARDSON. No; I think not.

Mr. HEPBURN. There was a proposition made to recommit the bill for one hour. That was disagreed to. Then the gentleman asked that it might be recommitted to finish the reading of the bill.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That is right. You can finish it this week or next. We certainly fixed no limit.

Mr. HEPBURN. I think that if the Chair will read the colloquies that were had and the request that was made he will come to the conclusion that it was the purpose of the House to require the finishing of the reading of the bill at this session.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. That is what we ought to do.

Mr. MADDOX. The gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. HILL] asked that question, and said he would not object if that was the case, but that he would object if we were to close it in an hour.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the agreement made.

The Clerk read as follows:

The SPEAKER. The Chair will state the request. The gentleman from Tennessee asks unanimous consent that the House resolve itself again into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to finish the consideration of this bill in that committee, and when finished, to report it back to the House. The Chair assumes that the existing order will then be operative.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes; that the vote shall then be taken in the House.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

Mr. KNOX. I shall make no objection on my part——

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, withholding objection for a moment, I do not understand that the request made by the gentleman from Tennessee is precisely as the Speaker puts it, but that we shall resolve ourselves into Committee of the Whole for one hour.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Oh, no.

Mr. HILL. If it is understood that we are to finish the reading of the bill, I have no objection.

The SPEAKER. That is the request of the gentleman from Tennessee. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That was the agreement, to finish the reading of the bill, but no time was set within which it was to be finished.

Mr. STEELE. It was to go into the committee and finish the bill.

Mr. KNOX. With reference to the point made by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. HEPBURN], I understand that under the order made, at the request of the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. RICHARDSON], the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union are virtually directed to resume consideration of this bill until it is finished, but I do not understand that that in any way prevents the committee at any time rising, and that when the House meets again this is the unfinished business, upon which it is in order, under the general order previously adopted, that the House shall go into Committee of the Whole to consider it.

I myself would be very glad to sit and finish this bill to-night, but I do not feel like asking gentlemen who have signified their desire to go away to sit longer. I am willing to sit and finish the bill, but unless there is a general agreement to that I do not wish to insist upon it.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Let us finish it.

Mr. KNOX. But I do expect that this bill will be in order for to-morrow as unfinished business under the unanimous-consent agreement which we made this afternoon virtually carrying out the previous special order, which was not otherwise modified, that we shall go into Committee of the Whole to-morrow and finish this bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order raised by the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. HEPBURN] is that the committee is bound to continue in session until it complies fully with the order of the House, which is to finish the consideration of the bill, and when finished to report it back to the House. The Chair is of the opinion that that order of the House to the committee is to finish the consideration of the bill in accordance with the rules applicable to this body; and in accordance with those rules the committee may at any time, upon motion and the will of the majority, rise, and at some other time resume consideration of the bill.

For that reason the Chair overrules the point of order and will put the motion of the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. KNOX] to the committee.

The motion was agreed to.

The committee accordingly rose; and the Speaker having resumed the chair, Mr. MOODY of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that committee had had under consideration the bill (S. 222) to provide a government for the Territory of Hawaii, and had come to no resolution thereon.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I desire to make a parliamentary inquiry, merely for the purpose of furnishing information to the House. It is the understanding of those in charge of the bill, under the order adopted this afternoon by unanimous consent, recommitting this bill to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, to consider it until finished, in connection with the order of the House previously made under which we were acting, that this will be in order to-morrow, under these two orders, as unfinished business.

The SPEAKER. That would be the understanding of the Chair—that this will be a continuing order until disposed of.

Mr. STEELE. But that will not deprive us of the privilege of raising the question of consideration to-morrow morning.

Mr. GROSVENOR. The whole question is this: Suppose the House refuses to go into Committee of the Whole. In the first place, is it necessary to have a vote to-morrow to go into Committee of the Whole, or do we go into the Committee of the Whole under the order?

The SPEAKER. The Chair thinks the usual motion to go into Committee of the Whole will be necessary.

Mr. GROSVENOR. A vote will be necessary, then. Very well; the House can refuse to go into Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER. That is the privilege of the House.

Mr. KNOX. Mr. Speaker, I have been asked by members on both sides of the House to request a reprint of this bill, as no copies are now to be had and there has been a dearth in the House this afternoon.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Massachusetts asks unanimous consent for a reprint of the bill S. 222. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.