

Theatres assigned to for anyone of existing...ing them...ing their...unusable...ch changes...ained by a...y the Secre...education and...anning auth...ch changes...ing the said...considered dema...re buildings...at architectural...ance but which...atres meeting

(L) said that the theatre the...hard pressed...elling, and un...profession. The...er blow for the...y of the English

Minister of State the Government and agreed with...d it would turn...e weapon in the...ing the theatre...d a second time...ergy Authority...es) Bill come...ee stage...n, 4.48 pm.

ssent

signed to the Statute Law Samuel Montaguensing (Amend...es, Australian...Standard Life...any, Railway...Superannuation...mauel Montagu

Mr Callaghan come to know castle and talk to the management and workers in Swan Hunter Ship-builders and explain to them how he is going to deal with the problem that may be created this evening by the irresponsible misuse (by Conservative MPs) of a genuine technical error on the livelihoods of the men, their employment and on an industry which is in the process of getting its fourth vesting date?

Mr James Callaghan—The ship-building industry faces its greatest crisis since the end of the war. That is true of the world situation. It is therefore vitally important that we should get ahead as quickly as possible with the re-

industry is to be saved. No parliamentary successes by the Opposition will prevent that from happening.

Mr Norman reebit (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C) suggested that the Prime Minister visited Hounslow. This was, he said, one of the places which would have been affected by the Prime Minister's efforts to amend the Boundary Commission report in favour of the Labour Party a few years ago and it would have been a good place for him to go and explain if there were any limits to his willingness to alter the rules of the game to get the result that he wanted. (Conservative cheers.)

so I assume it is the house that will reach its conclusion.

Mr Jo Grimond, Leader of the Liberal Party (Orkney and Shetland, L)—Is there to be a free vote this evening?

Mr Callaghan—There is no doubt that all Labour MPs will be in the lobbies in support of the Government. (Conservative laughter.)

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C)—On the basis of whose rule book will the decision tonight be taken, the standing orders of the House as interpreted by the Speaker or the changing instructions of the Prime Minister?

Conservative laughter.)

Mr Thatcher—Will the Prime Minister therefore undertake to accept the result of tonight's vote and not have another vote the week after next?

Mr Callaghan—That will depend on what the vote is about. (Loud Conservative interruptions and cries of "Disgraceful".) It will depend on what the vote is about the week after next and it will depend on what form it is put. Today the House will reach a decision and consequences will follow from that and we shall see the consequences when the vote has been declared.

to consider here, but it is not the first time that someone has given an indication that he wishes to return to politics in his own country before finishing his term of office.

On the general question, we should consider what should be the position of Commissioners in these matters. On the whole I would agree that if they are appointed for a fixed term they should see out that term

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 11.00: Adjournment for the Whitsun recess until Monday, June 7.

Meetings but not negotiations with Provisional Sinn Fein

Meetings had been held with representatives of Provisional Sinn Fein and if necessary they would take place again, Mr Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions. He added that he was not talking about negotiations but meetings helped him to know what was happening in the Province.

He had been asked about the political situation in Ulster and also what discussions he had had with political leaders there on the continuation of direct rule.

Mr Rees (Leeds, South, Lab)—Since the dissolution of the Constitutional Convention on March 5, I have had a number of meetings with the leaders and members of political parties in Northern Ireland to discuss issues of common concern, for example, direct rule and the security situation.

It is my firmly held intention that the Government will continue

to discharge fully their responsibility for all aspects of the affairs of Northern Ireland and provide firm, fair and resolute Government.

Mr John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire, Lab)—What about the statement issued by two leading Ulster politicians this week suggesting extra-parliamentary activity? This only undermines the policies of the British Government in Ulster.

These activities involve a somewhat curious interpretation of the term loyalism.

Mr Rees—I agree. There is always in Ulster, among some Loyalists, a curious interpretation of what the word means. At the time of the Ulster workers' strike we saw just that. Loyalty to the Queen in Parliament is what I understand by it, but any actions there are a matter for the chief constable, not me.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C)—For how long does he envisage direct

rule continuing? There is a political vacuum in Ulster between the present legally elected people on the County Council level and himself.

Mr Rees—I do not accept there is a political vacuum. Our aim must be to get a devolved administration there but people there have had enough of politics in recent years. I want it to be nurtured again at the right time. But on the question "How long?" I do not know. But because there is no sign of devolved government, without direct rule there is anarchy. We will keep direct rule, with some changes, for as long as is necessary.

Mr Airey Neave, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Abingdon, C)—It is giving political credibility to organizations like Provisional Sinn Fein by currently holding talks. Will he confirm or deny if the talks are actually going on? Has he read the

interview in *The Sunday Times* this last week with a person of the Provisional Sinn Fein who says they are valuable to him? Are they valuable to the people of Northern Ireland?

Mr Rees—He should not believe what he reads in the papers. Overall, my staff have talked to individuals belonging to legal organizations. In Northern Ireland there are many belonging to legal organizations who have views which are an anathema to many here.

There have never been negotiations with anybody. I have said it is valuable to explain Government policy and my security advisers believe there is benefit to be gained from this.

Exchanges with Sinn Fein have not been anything like as frequent as many people here seem to think and there was great advantage, I thought, a year ago.

Mr Neave—He is giving political credibility to Provisional Sinn

Fein. Are they not representative of a terrorist organization?

Mr Rees—It is advantageous to me and my staff to know what is going on in Northern Ireland. There have never been negotiations. These meetings, if necessary, will happen again.

Mr William Craig (Belfast, East, UU)—The casualty list for this part of the year is greater than that of 1972. While we would like to see political progress it is important to stress that as the security situation deteriorates the political situation gets more difficult.

Mr Rees—There is a relationship between the two. A political agreement would not end the violence. I have found that the ability of a very small number of people in the Province to cause trouble is greater than I had thought. We are discussing how to reorganize the forces to deal with it. It is not a question of numbers in the security forces.

9261 May 82

THE TIMES

PO 35/1248 (1)

PO235/148 (2)



Mr B. Duddy,
Kiamata,
Glen Road,
Londonderry.