

[Secretary.]

ed to the Joint Committee, may be communicated to this House.

MOTION

"That the Bill to provide for the formation of certain Government or Government-associated banks as subsidiaries of the State Bank of India and for the constitution, management and control of the subsidiary banks so formed, and for matters connected therewith, or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely:—

1. Shri C. Bali Reddy
2. Shri M. R. Krishna
3. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
4. Shri Shree Narayan Das
5. Dr. M. S. Aney
6. Kumari Meniben Vallabhbai Patel
7. Major Raja Bahadur Birendra Bahadur Singh
8. Shri Amar Singh Damar
9. Shri K. G. Wodeyar
10. Shri T. Ganapathy
11. Shri M. Palaniyandy
12. Shri Bahadur Singh
13. Shri S. R. Damani
14. Dr. Pashupati Mandal
15. Shri Vishnu Sharan Dublish
16. Shri Lachhi Ram
17. Shri Panna Lal
18. Shri Kanhu Charan Jena
19. Shri K. S. Ramaswamy
20. Shri Ram Shanker Lal
21. Shri B. R. Bhagat
22. Shri Prabhat Kar
23. Shri P. K. Kodyian
24. Shri J. M. Mohamed Imam
25. Shri Ram Chandra Majhi
26. H. H. Maharaja Pratap Keshari Deo
27. Shri Subiman Ghose

28. Shri Laisram Achaw Singh

29. Shri Balasaheb Salunke, and

30. Shri Morarji Desai

and 15 members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

THE COAL GRADING BOARD (REPEAL) BILL, 1959

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES
AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Coal Grading Act, 1925, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I do not propose to make any long speech in support of this motion that I have placed before this hon. House. It is generally said that there is over-legislation and that we do not take into consideration or review from time to time if there are any enactments which have become superfluous or which are no longer necessary. So far as the present Act of 1925 is concerned, the main functions of this Act are two-fold. One is to grant certificates of grading whenever any

colliery applied for it. The second is to grant certificates of shipment in respect of coal intended for export whenever a graded colliery applied for it.

This Act came into force to meet a situation that arose after the First World War when Indian coal lost some of its export markets. Later on, in 1952, a comprehensive legislation known as the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act came into force. This Act provided for the constitution of the Coal Board. The provisions of the Act and the statutory rules under this Act empowered the Coal Board to grade coals from all mines in the country in accordance with the specifications prescribed under the Colliery Control Order, 1954. The present position is that from July 1955, the Coal Board is actually performing the functions of grading of coals in the country.

Then another development took place in 1954 when the Government appointed the Coal Export Committee to report on the measures necessary to stimulate exports of coal. This committee recommended, among other things, that so far as grading is concerned, this should be entrusted to the Coal Board. Then in August 1955, the Coal Grading Board accepted this recommendation. In view of this decision, the question arose whether it was necessary to have two separate statutory bodies to discharge the functions relating to the grading. The Grading Board itself considered this question in February 1956 and resolved that there was no longer any necessity for that body to continue and it should, therefore, be wound up. The Coal Board also made a similar recommendation. The intention is that after this Act of 1925 is repealed, the grading will be done by the Coal Board, which has been constituted under the Act of 1952. So far as the grant of any certificate of shipment is concerned, that can be granted by the Coal Board, if any party applies to it for that. No legislation is necessary

and it could be ensured even by an executive order.

So the main purpose of coming to this hon. House for the repeal of this measure is that it is found to be not necessary and the same functions could well be undertaken by the Coal Board and this would avoid duplication and unnecessary work.

The other provisions are incidental.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Coal Grading Act, 1925, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

How many want to speak on this Bill?

(A few hon. Members stood up.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You too, want to speak?

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh): Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then have ten minutes for each speaker.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I think this matter needs a little more attention than the speech of the hon. Minister would suggest. We are all interested in the export of our coal and therefore, we need high grade coal for the purpose of our export. For that certificates are naturally necessary and they have to be issued. If only an internal arrangement were to be altered, we would have no objection and we would have thought that in this matter, the intention would be easily fulfilled. Therefore, my quarrel is not with the fact that some altered arrangement is being brought into existence. What I am concerned about is how we can upgrade our coal and grade it properly and stimulate our exports. We have got a number of institutions, the National Coal Development Corporation, the Coal Board and we had till recently

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]
this Coal Grading Board also. I am not concerned with these various institutions. Now that it is all being put on the Coal Board, I would like to make certain critical observations and suggestions.

The problem before us is not the mere certifying or grading of coal—that will follow this measure—but how to stimulate our export by upgrading the coal, by using modern devices like washeries and so on. In this matter, I think the National Coal Development Corporation and others concerned have largely failed in fulfilling what was expected of them. If we were to just reconcile ourselves to the issuing of certificates, we would not get far by way of stimulating export. We have to ensure the work of upgrading the coal by, as I said, the use of proper methods.

Government undertook it but they do not seem to have done it well. Time is very short and so I would briefly refer to the scandalous manner in which the washery at Kargali has been handled by the authorities concerned. I think many Members know that at a cost of Rs. 2½ crores—the Finance Minister should note it—a washery was set up at Kargali in order to upgrade coal by washing and other connected methods. Firstly, there was some kind of mysterious way of handling the tenders.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It may be quite interesting but the washery at Kargali is not washing coal for export only. That is quite irrelevant so far as the present Bill is concerned. The subject is interesting and the hon. Member may continue if he likes but it is not at all relevant to the present subject.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Bill does not deal merely with coal that is exported, coal that is graded and then exported. It deals with other types also.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is meant for the steel plants.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are right. That is meant now for the steel plants.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not concerned with the steel plants now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That washery was meant for upgrading low grade coal but that washery has now gone over to the steel plant. Why? That is the point. You are right.

Now, two tenders were there. One tender was accepted but for some reason or the other, that was rejected. It was found that it was costing about forty lakhs more. Anyway, Government altered their original decision and accepted a lower tender. Now, Sir, the washery was installed not for serving the Hindustan Steel; it was installed for upgrading coal. Originally that was the plan and money was sanctioned for that purpose. Now, the hon. Minister went for the opening of this. After the opening, it was found that the washery was defective, the diameter was found narrower than what it should be.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Diameter of what?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: They were in a soup and did not know what to do. Then Mr. Tooley, the Chief of the Planning Section, suggested that the diameter could be enlarged and gave an estimate of Rs. 80 lakhs or so. At that time, Mr. Krishnaswamy, who was head of this thing, was opposed to this business and he did not understand this. A washery is established for upgrading coal; it is found defective and somebody says, "I am prepared to enlarge to it provided you fork out another eighty lakhs or so". This is how things happened. Strong language was used and I do not know Mr. Krishnaswamy, but I am told he used very strong language and he said to some officers—I do not want to name them—"You are all thieves". At that stage, it was decided to sell it to Hindustan

Steel, to get rid of it. This is how it came to be sold, although it was not originally meant for the steel plant.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I would point out, Sir, that all these things are not only not relevant but entirely incorrect also. There is no question of selling the washery to Hindustan Steel. It is still with the National Coal Development Corporation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not going to Hindustan Steel? Does he deny that? I did not mention Hindustan Steel. He mentioned it.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I said that the coal washed will be for the Hindustan Steel factory but not the washery itself.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The washery was not in question; only the coal that was in question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Can he deny that the diameter was found narrower? Anyway, Sir, your Hindustan Steel has got it.

I have very serious allegations. I would not give the names but I give him fore-warning. I have in my possession materials which show that at least a number of important officials connected with the grading, the washery and so on are responsible for all kinds of deeds. There may be some who are good, very few, but I think Government should go into this question. Otherwise, it is no use placing these things under the Coal Board. The aim should be to find out proper types of officers. The officers against whom there are allegations should be removed. I know of an officer connected with this Coal Board and other institutions who has got a palatial house in Calcutta. It is difficult to imagine that with the salary that he gets, it would be possible for him to build such a house. I would not name him. I know of officers of the Coal Board etc. who spent Rs. 2½ lakhs for their daughters' marriages.

These things have to be gone into. If you ask me for proof, I tell you I have got some at least and I will not place it before you. I can name at least a few but I would not do so. Metallurgical and other high grade coal is being taken out by these people for export. You do not impose even a price control on such coal. These people are free to do whatever they like with the metallurgical coal. The British concerns are connected with the export—actually export is in their hands—and in the matter of grading also, all kinds of malpractices take place. I am not mentioning the head, Mr. Zaman, who is the Chairman of the Coal Board. I know him. He is an honest man and I have known him from England and I think his honesty is unsullied even today. I have complaints against others. I am told that Mr. Krishnaswamy is also good but there are still others who are very much tied up with the big business in coal and they carry out their behests rather than do what is in the national interest. This is a point to be borne in mind. You are giving this responsibility to the Coal Board now. By all means do it but we would like the allegations that are there before the Government through us and otherwise to be gone into. Proper type of people should be put in charge of the affairs so that it does not become necessary for me to get up at the next Session to relate stories, names, numbers, etc.

SHRI ROHIT M. DAVE (Bombay): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Bill that is now before us is to repeal the Coal Grading Board Act of 1925. This Board had two functions. In its initial stages its function was to see that whenever anyone applied for a certificate of grading for purposes of export, he was granted such a certificate. As far as this work is concerned, it is now contended that the existence of this Board is no longer necessary because this type of work is being done by the Coal Board. There are other functions which the Grading Board had undertaken under the

[Shri Rohit M. Dave.]

Coal Grading Board Rules, 1925, in regard to grading the different coal seams in the country. This had nothing to do with export alone. This function has also now been given over to the Coal Board and that is why the Government has come here with a proposal to repeal this particular Act.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to emphasise that the grading of coal is a very important function in view of the fact that we are in short supply so far as metallurgical coal is concerned. Grading of coal is very important in order to find out what is good quality coal which should be conserved for certain special purposes and what is inferior type of coal which could be used for all purposes. Grading of coal is, therefore, important from the point of view of conservation of our resources. When a particular Act is being repealed and thereby a particular Board is being taken out of existence, when the functions of the Board are being given to some other Board, the House will be interested to know as to whether the other Board is sufficiently equipped to carry out this work of grading or not. But the hon. Minister told us that since 1955 the Coal Board have undertaken the responsibility of the grading of coal. From the various reports, which the Coal Board has issued till now, we find that this very important work of grading coal has not been done as satisfactorily as it should be. From the reports we find that so far as the outlying coalfields are concerned, that is, coalfields outside Bengal and Bihar coal from those mines has not been graded at all so far. Secondly, even with reference to the areas in which the Coal Board has undertaken this work of grading the coal, the Coal Board has found it difficult to keep pace with the number of applications which it is receiving and, therefore, it has not been able to deal with all the various coals that have been sent to it for grading purposes,

with the result that a large part of the coal is being used for purposes for which perhaps it ought not to have been used. Then, Sir, there are so many other collieries which are producing coal which is of a different character from the coal that they were producing at the time the grading took place. Now, these coalfields also require to be graded again. The coal that is coming out of such coalfields has to be graded again and here again the Coal Board has not got sufficient equipment and sufficient personnel to deal with this type of grading work. The result is that perhaps very important quality of coal is being used at the present moment for purposes for which it is not in the interests of the country that it should be used. This is a serious matter because of the fact that we are in short supply of metallurgical coal.

There is another aspect of it which also requires some consideration. Even if we have graded the coal, the question of channelling the various grades of coal, to the purpose for which it is desirable to channel them, has to be taken into account. From the recent report which the Committee has submitted to the Railway Board for coal utilisation, we find that the railways today are not equipped to use the type of coal which ordinarily ought to go to the railways and because of their particular boiler designs, etc., they have to use coal which is of a higher grade and which normally should not be used by the railways. This again is a question which shows that mere grading of the coal is not enough. We have to see that the coal which we have graded is being utilised in a manner which is in the interests of the economy as a whole.

I would, therefore, submit that when this Act is being repealed and the functions of the Coal Grading Board are being taken over by the Coal Board, it should be the duty of the Ministry and the Government to see that the Coal Board is properly equipped to do the task and the Coal

Board should be given definite instructions to see that it is in a position to perform the task and functions which have been assigned to the Coal Board. Unless this is done, this repeal might do some harm to the economy as such.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jaspal Roy Kapoor. Five minutes.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Five minutes, even less than that will do. In fact, I am obliged to you for cautioning me against a long speech and I will not, therefore, run the risk of diving deep into coalmines, no, not even in the safe company of the gallant, golden-named, Sardar Swaran Singh. The hon. Minister, while introducing this measure, made a very encouraging statement that we are now becoming alive to the necessity of reducing legislation. It is a very happy sign, for we are almost getting sick of a plethora of legislation. The fewer the laws, the better for all concerned. Now, viewed from that angle, I am happy that the necessity for introducing this measure is the fact that the previous measure, which is still in force, the Coal Grading Board Act, has become redundant. But I do not know whether this view is entirely correct, because the hon. Minister stated that the object of the existing Coal Grading Board Act was two-fold. One of its functions is to grade coal, and the second function is to issue certificates for the purpose of export. Now, so far as the first function is concerned, obviously that is now being performed by the Coal Board. So far as the second function is concerned, I do not know how it will be done and who will perform it. The hon. Minister said that that could be done by an executive order. I do not know whether it could really be so done. I have looked into the various provisions of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, under which the Coal Board is functioning. I find from the long title of the Act that it is to "provide for the conservation of coal, and to make further provision for

safety in coal mines." So, these are the only two purposes of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act. When we come to section 5 of the Act, we find that the functions of the Board are confined to:

"(1) The Board may, for the purpose of maintenance of safety in coal mines or for conservation of coal, exercise such powers and discharge such duties as may be assigned to it under this Act."

So, Sir, sub-section (1) of section 5 deals with only maintenance of safety in coal mines and sub-section (2) also does not in any way authorise the Central Government to issue any executive order for the purpose of grading coal in order to enable the Board to issue certificates for the purpose of export. This is an important thing on which I would very much like the hon. Minister to throw some specific light, for this question ever since this measure has been introduced, has been agitating some people who are in the coal trade, and some of them have made representations to me enquiring as to what would happen so far as this function of the existing Coal Grading Board Act is concerned. The hon. Minister would do well to throw some light on this question. We should not allow this important subject to remain in the dark. I have already submitted that it will not be open to the Central Government, under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, to issue certificates or to do anything like that. If there are any other provisions of law or any other authority vested in the Central Government in the exercise of which they can provide for the issuing of certificates for export purposes, that is another thing and I will be happy to know that.

One thing more. Under the existing Act, which it is proposed to be repealed, it is provided that the Coal Grading Board would be publishing a list of graded coal every three months and also a complete list of the graded coal once every year in January.

[Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor.]

ary. This was provided in the 3 P.M. rules which were made on the subject and this rule 26 was published in the Gabelle of December 19, 1925. I need not repeat the whole of this rule for want of time, but this rule specifically provided that this list would be published once in three months and a consolidated list every year in January. This, I understand, was not followed. This statutory obligation on the Coal Grading Board was not observed by it. I would like to know the reason. Certainly, people who are in the State are interested in the publication of this list every three months and a consolidated list every year. Now that the Coal Grading Board is being abolished altogether, I would like to know whether this statutory function of the Coal Grading Board would now be regularly and properly performed by the Coal Board. This is an important matter, Sir, on which I would like the hon. Minister to throw specific light.

One point more, Sir, and I have done. We would like to know whether the Government would control the F.O.R. colliery prices for export purposes also.

These are the few things to which I have considered it necessary to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, and he would do well to oblige us and the trade by throwing adequate light on these points.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, there has been no opposition to the proposed amending legislation that is before the hon. House. Certain points have, however, been raised, and I would try to reply very briefly to some of them.

Taking first the points raised by Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, three points have been raised by him. With regard to the issue of the certificate of shipment, it is not the intention that the facility for the issue of such certificates should not be there after the abolition of the Coal Grading Board.

As no statutory backing is required for the issue of such certificates, it is proposed to entrust the function to the Coal Board by means of an executive order of the Government. I may also add, Sir, that even under section 6(1) of the Coal Grading Board Act, the Grading Board is empowered to grant certificate of shipment only in cases where a graded colliery applies for the grant of such a certificate. Thus, there is no statutory stipulation either under the Coal Grading Board Act and the rules framed thereunder or under any other law that every export of coal shall be covered by a certificate of shipment. It is a sort of an enabling provision so that there might be some prestige to the coal that is being exported, so that there may be certain confidence about the quality thereof, and we have been advised that this power can be exercised by the Coal Board without any precise legislative authority being conferred upon the Coal Board.

The second point that has been mentioned is that certain lists and statistical matter have been published by the Coal Grading Board. We will examine as to whether that publication is necessary and if it is in the interests of trade.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They were not published though there is a statutory obligation.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: He says that they were not published. All that I can say is, that is an additional ground why this Act should be repealed and if publication of any statistics is required, we will certainly examine that matter, and we will examine . . .

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: To penalise the existing Board.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If publication of any material statistics or otherwise is necessary, we will certainly take steps in that direction.

There is no intention at present to control the prices of coal that is meant

for export because export is a competitive market, but the position can be reviewed at any time if it is found necessary.

So far as the hon. Member from Bombay, Shri Dave, is concerned, all that he has argued is that grading is necessary, but that it is not being properly done. All that I can say is that this is an executive matter and we will certainly ensure, having undertaken a responsibility, to see that that responsibility is properly discharged.

With regard to the grading of coal in the outlying fields, the matter is already engaging the attention of the Government and a decision one way or the other is likely to be taken in the course of the next few months or so.

My hon. friend opposite, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, took this opportunity of entering a caveat and saying that he intends to raise something at some future time. If he has got any information which at the present moment he does not think it proper to place before the House, I would like to benefit by that if he could give that information to me even outside the House. I will certainly make enquiries and try to find out whether the information that he has got requires any investigation or looking into.

With regard to the Kargali Washery, he wanted to make that relevant by saying that this is a step for upgrading coal and he said that certain defects were noticed in the working of that washery. Well, I can assure the hon. House that there were minor defects at the initial stages which are not uncommon and they can be described as 'teething trouble' in any new plant when it goes into production. Trial tests are still being gone through and the National Coal Development Corporation for whom this washery has been put up, have not yet formally taken over the washery from the contractors. And this will be taken over formally when the trial tests have been gone through and the

performance of the washery should be in accordance with the specifications that have been stipulated in the contract.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if one of the reasons why the National Coal Board is not taking it over is that it is found to be defective? This is one of the reasons why they are not easily taking it over.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is not correct. The Washery has to run for a certain period through what are known as 'trial tests' and this is the normal function. While these normal functions are being performed or the normal stipulations in a contract are being gone through, it will be premature—if I may be permitted to say, even unfair—to prejudge something which is still undergoing tests. So, I would respectfully submit for the consideration of the House that criticism should be useful. Generally, there is a great deal of help by criticism, but it should not be unfair and it should not also be premature.

As I said earlier, the Washery is still going through these trial tests and it will not be fair really to judge it or ask me to make a commitment unless it is offered to me after the tests or offered to the National Coal Development Corporation and after they have accepted only, should these questions arise. It will be unfair to either party to raise these points when the plant has not been finally taken . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Was Mr. Tooley asked to prepare a scheme for enlarging the Washery?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not concerned with it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He said something.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Coal Grading Act, 1925, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Sir, I would like to say that the hon. Minister has been pleased to state that executive orders when necessary and called for will be issued for issuing certificates for the purpose of export. But then under the existing rules on the subject, a certain procedure was prescribed, a form was prescribed, for applying for the certificate. A fee was also prescribed. Would not the Government consider it advisable to prescribe the form, the fee and all that even before an application is received? How can one apply unless one knows what should be the form and all that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is a good suggestion; and I will certainly ensure that the people who are applying for certificates are not put to any inconvenience.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1959

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that under rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya

Sabha, the Chairman has allotted one hour and thirty minutes for the consideration and return of the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1959, including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the said Bill.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO (Andhra Pradesh): I rise on a point of order, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: I refer to Rule 56, Motion after introduction of Bills, and I quote the portion contained in the proviso there:

"Provided that no such motion shall be made until after copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of Members, and that any Member may object to any such motion being made unless copies of the Bill have been so made available for two days before the day on which the motion is made," etc.

Actually, Mr. Deputy Chairman, a copy of this Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, was circulated to us only this morning. Moreover, in the business for the day actually the next item that is put is the Motion for consideration of the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So, since a copy of this Bill as passed by Lok Sabha was made available to us only this morning and since this Bill is not so simple and so innocuous as it may appear, I object to its being taken up today.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): I would like to make a point here, Sir. Yes, the Business Advisory Committee perhaps may have discussed it . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody was present.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not deny it, but this Bill was circulated only this morning. When such is the case, when do we have the chance to study it? We come here at half past ten in the morning and the House