

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 28, 1969

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Second report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates in both official languages—Mr. Leblanc (Laurier).

Third report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs in both official languages—Mr. Clermont.

[Editor's Note: Text of foregoing reports appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

CONFERENCE DATES, RELEASING OF DOCUMENTS, FACILITIES

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the House that general agreement has been reached with the provinces that the third session of the Constitutional Conference will be held in Ottawa on December 8, 9 and 10 in the new facilities being prepared in the Centennial Centre. With the agreement of the provincial premiers, I hope to be able to table the agenda early next week, Mr. Speaker.

I might add that the federal and provincial governments have agreed that documents which they will be preparing for the conference will be released in advance of the conference next Thursday at two o'clock in the afternoon, or as soon thereafter as the provinces wish to do so. The federal government will be publishing a paper entitled "Income Security and Social Services". The Federal and provincial governments have also agreed that the meetings will be public and televised.

[Translation]

A few seats will be reserved for observers accompanying the federal and provincial

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delegates. As for us, we want all parties in the House to be represented. Since only so many seats are available, I would suggest that one seat be reserved for each leader of the opposition parties, two for the Speakers of both houses, one for the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, four for senators and 24 for members, the latter reserved on the basis of party representation in the House. Of course, it will be up to each party to select its own delegates.

• (11:10 a.m.)

[English]

Arrangements are also being made to associate with the federal delegation the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory and one Councillor from each of the Territorial Councils. This is the same arrangement which was made for the conference in February, 1969.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—SHARING OF COST OF PUBLIC SERVANTS' PREMIUMS

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the government has agreed that it will, as an employer, share in the cost of employees' medicare premiums, as recommended by the National Joint Council.

The policy provides that the employer will share in the direct premium charges levied upon employees by provincial governments with regard to medical care insurance. The share of the government will be the lesser of:

- (a) 50 per cent of the direct premium, or
- (b) \$1.34 for single persons, \$3.38 for married employees and \$4.87 for employees with families.

The specific amounts referred to represent the differences between the basic employer premiums under the Group Surgical-Medical Insurance Plan and the sum of the employer premiums for supplementary medical and hospital benefits available to employees under the Group Surgical-Medical Insurance Plan.