

Mr. Trudeau: That is really part of the same question the hon. member asked previously, but I put it to him that if we want to investigate and control costs, supervise the contracts and sign them ourselves, the hon. member is really suggesting that we do share part of the responsibility for the deficit. If this is his position, he should state it clearly on behalf of his party, and we will consider it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRANSPORT

FREIGHT RATES—INCREASE IN RATES ON CONTAINERS FROM HALIFAX—SUGGESTED DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Transport. What action does the government propose to take with respect to the additional 10 per cent plus 5 per cent increases in freight rates for containers moving out of the port of Halifax into central Canada? These increases come into effect very shortly and will bring to a total of 73 per cent the increases in freight rates in the last five or six years for that particular item.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the House in answer to earlier questions, all proposed freight rate increases will now have to be tested against the guidelines. There are some complicated questions involved in determining the application of those guidelines to such complex matters as freight rates, and we are looking into the question of the exact nature of those guidelines now.

Mr. Forrestall: I wonder if I can assume from the welcome response of the minister that some action will be taken to defer or delay the implementation of further freight rate increases in instances such as this until such time as the review board has procedures in place to deal with them and to consider them properly.

● (1500)

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to forecast the specific details until I am rather more sure about the nature of the application of the guidelines to freight increases.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government House leader about the business for the rest of this week and next week. I watched him counting on his fingers the number of shopping days to Christmas, so perhaps he will tell us what he dreams of

Business of the House

finding hung on his legislative Christmas tree on, say, December 19.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as the House leader for the official opposition has indicated, the House leaders have had some discussion about the program of measures the government would like to have dealt with by the House before Christmas. There is universal, enthusiastic support for a fixed day for the beginning of the Christmas break, which we all agree should be, if possible, December 19. In order to realize these various objectives, it will be necessary to manage the time devoted to the various measures before us and, particularly, to move bills into standing committees as expeditiously as possible.

With that in mind, I am announcing a program which the House leaders believe is manageable, and would not unduly restrain debate on any particular measure, for the period Friday, October 31, to Friday, November 7, inclusive. This program would cover the following items: second reading of bills C-28, C-21 and S-10; the remaining stages of Bill C-25; second reading of Bill C-69; second reading of Bill C-65 and its consideration in committee of the whole; second reading of Bill C-52.

Hon. members will note that this package of measures includes some that might be called housekeeping items which are not likely to involve much by way of debate, some relatively non-contentious bills, and the conclusion of the second reading debate on Bill C-69 relative to unemployment insurance. The intention is that debate on second reading of Bill C-69 will resume on Monday, November 3. There has been agreement among House leaders that in order to have some prospect of reaching our objectives, we should agree now to reduce somewhat the time limitation on speeches upon resumption of second reading.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin):

That when the House resumes consideration of the second reading stage of Government Order No. 69, an act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, all speeches be limited to 30 minutes during the debate on second reading.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If I am not mistaken, the motion refers to Government Order No. 69. In fact, it also refers to Bill C-69. I do not know whether there is some confusion. The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, while we are all getting along so famously, I wonder if the minister could clarify the government's intention with regard to November 10, respecting which there was a measure of agreement, so that the House can make certain that this will be a fait accompli?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I said in the House one day last week, there is a general desire that the House should not sit on November 10, this being the day before one of the legal holidays. That has been agreed, and I intend to bring forward an order to add some time to government days in order to make up for the time lost. I did make another suggestion to the House leader of the official opposition, but I hesitate to mention it in case he turns it down.