

Business of the House

Mr. Fleming: The provinces have not been consulted with regard to the bill. Whether they were consulted by the previous government during the several years when the bill was in course of preparation under the former government, I do not know. In any event, there is nothing final about the step we are taking tonight. Of course, if the provinces have any representations to make with regard to the subject we shall certainly be happy to receive them.

Mr. Richardson: May I ask the minister a question? In view of the fact that the dominion parliament left the field of succession duties entirely to the provinces until 1941, when the war necessitated the dominion parliament entering that field, has the present government given any consideration to the desirability of now giving it all back to the provinces?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, I think my friend has his answer in the fact that we are proposing that the present succession duty be repealed at the next session in favour of this new estate tax.

Mr. Macdonald (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Chairman, I think it would be fine in a way if the resolution could be carried tonight but at the same time I think it is very important that the government, in drafting a bill that they are going to present at the next session, should have the views of members of the house. Therefore I am going to have the temerity perhaps to speak for five or ten minutes on the resolution.

An hon. Member: Not tonight.

Mr. Macdonald (Vancouver-Kingsway): Some hon. member says "not tonight". I am afraid I must call it ten o'clock.

Mr. Fleming: In the hope of expediting this matter may I ask if hon. members would be willing to hear my hon. friend tonight in

order that the bill can be introduced and disposed of as far as any further action at this present session is concerned?

The Chairman: Is there unanimous consent?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): After my colleague speaks I believe there are a few across the way who would like to have something to say. We are bringing the staff back tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock and I think we should call it ten o'clock.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Sinclair: May I ask the house leader what the business is for tomorrow.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, first we shall take second reading of the bill which received first reading this evening, described as an act to amend the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act. Then we shall continue the debate on the resolution preceding the estate tax measure. Then we shall take second reading of the act to provide for annual vacations with pay. Hon. members should be prepared to take anything else on the order paper. I cannot say in what order the items would be called. If we reach estimates we will take the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. Nicholson: On Saturday I asked the house leader when we would be concluding the business of this session and he indicated by the end of this month. As there are only three days left, can the minister indicate the plans for the next three days if it is hoped to finish on Friday?

Mr. Green: No, I am afraid I cannot go any farther than I have this evening.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to the order of the house passed on December 2, 1957.