

Christmas Recess

optimum effectiveness, thanks to the efforts and planning of the President of the Privy Council.

It is mostly on his planning that I want to commend him, because through his co-operation and direction, we are made aware day by day of what the business of the House calls for on following days. So, we can plan in advance and determine who our speakers will be, research more fully our contributions and stop talking through our hats.

As a result of that planning and co-operation among parliamentary leaders of the various official parties in the House, we can attain maximum efficiency, despite the props of our old procedure.

A motion passed by the House to modernize our procedure, even if it means altering the time of the House sittings, is before the Committee on Procedure and Organization. Indeed, anything is allowed under that motion so that the Canadian people may really expect results from their Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, reference is now made to salary increases for members, a recess period, the efficiency of Parliament, the representability of members in their work, the distribution of member's work between standing committees and the House and, the increasing use of the committee of the whole. It is stated that 26 out of the 58 sitting days were allotted to the opposition. Such are the basic facts in our present procedures.

I wanted to limit myself today to saying that we, from the Social Credit Party of Canada, claim vehemently that we insist on participating intensively in the upgrading of those procedures. We are proud of Parliament, we are proud of being here to represent our fellow citizens, but we are disappointed to find ourselves bound by procedures imported from elsewhere, with the result that we very often lose our time discussing side issues.

Mr. Speaker, several members have businesses which they have to take care of during the private members' hour. Oftentimes the bills are put off indefinitely when they are not simply thrown away when someone asks for the quorum, as it happened this week.

Mr. Speaker, I think that since the government can judge its effectiveness by the number or the quantity of bills it puts forward, we must consider the possibility of judging the members' and every party's effectiveness by the quality and the number of the bills they put forward themselves.

Through an agreement, we should give more attention to private members' legislation, I think. Once more we shall prove the importance of private members' business.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the parliamentary leaders for their co-operation and congratulate the President of the Privy Council for the manner in which he conducts the business of the House through constant consultation and planned organization. I want to praise the Chair for the way it conducts our discussions in general and especially praise the newsmen for their presence and their honesty towards Social Crediters.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the House ready for the question?

[Mr. Fortin.]

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Now that the motion has carried, may I thank all hon. members who spoke on the motion for the complimentary and kind remarks which were directed to me. Personally, I can scarcely believe that three months have gone by since I was first dragged to this podium kicking and resisting. I can only say that whatever success may have been attributed to me, as it was this morning, it was only possible because of the reservoir of good will and mutual respect existing in this chamber. For I can only say that regardless of the vigour, strength and deep-seated differences of opinion of hon. members of this chamber, there exists among them a level of respect and an amount of good will that is impossible to beat down, regardless of circumstances; and although at times it may be strained almost to the breaking point, it always redounds to the profound respect for and reputation of this chamber.

As a token of my appreciation for that good will which has carried me along, may I extend an invitation to hon. members: I ask them to join me in room 16 at five o'clock and, as is customary, I ask the guardian angels in their lofty positions on high—as described by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin)—to join us so that we may have the opportunity to pay one another the compliments of the season. I have asked the very excellent choir from Sudbury, the Marion Singers, to grace the hall at noon and at five o'clock with suitable music. I hope that hon. members and others will be able to join us at that time.

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● (1140)

ENERGY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAFEGUARDS IN RESPECT OF EXPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL, FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am announcing today the decision of the government to require more stringent safeguards in respect of the sale abroad of Canadian nuclear technology, facilities and material. I will in this statement set forth some of the important elements of that decision including the safeguards that must be met by any country seeking to purchase a nuclear facility, technology, or material from Canada. Not only will these binding safeguards apply to all future sales, but the government has decided to negotiate additional safeguards in respect of uranium supply contracts already approved. Existing contracts and contracts pending will be allowed to proceed during the course of the next calendar year while new safeguards are being negotiated.

The events that led to the review by the government of nuclear safeguards are well known to hon. members.

Canada's commitment to nuclear power as a peaceful energy source extends back almost 30 years. As a result of