

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

---

Tuesday, February 16, 1954

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### THE ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, February 12, 1954

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber on Tuesday, the 16th February, at 9.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,  
sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. F. Delaute,  
Secretary to the Governor General,  
(Administrative)

### PRIVILEGE

MR. FULTON—INQUIRY AS TO COMPLETENESS  
OF RETURN

**Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, I have to bring to your attention and to the attention of the house a matter concerning the completeness of a return which was ordered by this house on February 1. On that date the house adopted a motion of mine as follows:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, memoranda or telephone calls, etc., exchanged between the minister or the Department of Fisheries and any person or organization outside the dominion government service, since December 5, 1952, concerning the installation of fish screens on rivers and streams in the Nicola valley or elsewhere in British Columbia.

This return was tabled yesterday but apparently there is an omission from it, in that not all the correspondence has been produced. I have here a clipping from the Kamloops paper dated January 20, which was some ten days before the return was ordered, which indicates that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair) had written a letter on this matter to Mr. Kenneth W. Houghton, living in my constituency. I may say that Mr. Houghton was the defeated Liberal candidate in the last general election. That letter is not included in the return and I would be grateful if you would have a further order of the house issued to the department to make certain that all correspondence relevant to this matter is produced.

**Hon. James Sinclair (Minister of Fisheries):** It is not my intention, nor would it be my intention, to include my personal correspondence in an official return.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will understand that, an order having been issued by the house, I have no power to change the order that was made nor to give an order to the house myself. The order was made and the return was produced. The hon. member is perfectly right in raising the question at this time because in his view the return is not complete. However, he has the explanation from the minister. He may not agree with it, but I imagine that this is where the matter should rest.

**Mr. Fulton:** It will rest there for the time being—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:**—but I should like it to be perfectly clear that the minister has stated that that was personal correspondence.

**An hon. Member:** He said that.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

INTRODUCTION OF FIVE-DAY 40-HOUR WEEK IN  
VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance):** I should like to make a statement with respect to the introduction of the five-day 40-hour week. I announced on December 8 last that the government had decided that the policy of readjusting the working week of the operating staffs in the post office, customs and various other operating branches of the public service to the five-day 40-hour week would be put into effect on April 1 next. This, of course, was to be done where the five-day 40-hour week was the prevailing practice in the locality.

As I mentioned a few days ago in the house, the staffs of the civil service commission and the treasury board have been examining available statistics which show the extent to which the five-day 40-hour week is in effect in business and industry throughout the country. The civil service commission has made a report based on these figures and the treasury board has approved its recommendations that the five-day 40-hour week be put into effect in the locations listed below for operating employees. In these locations