

Business of the House

country, that parliament do, after proper consideration, pronounce itself upon the conduct of the government in making the order that has just been tabled.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt this motion?

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1956-57

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting further supplementary estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1957, was presented by Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house, and referred to the committee of supply.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**HOURS OF SITTING AND SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN STANDING ORDERS**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Now, Mr. Speaker, I would make the other part of the motion I referred to a moment ago with respect to the rules of the house during this, what I think would be called, emergency or special session. It is as follows:

That the following changes be made in the procedure of the house for the present session:

1. That the house shall sit every day except Sunday, and that standing orders 2 and 6 be suspended in relation thereto.

2. That, until the proceedings on the proposed appropriation bill have been disposed of, the daily hours of sitting shall be 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., and 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.; government orders shall have precedence of all other business except the daily routine of business, notices of motions for the production of papers, and questions; and that the provisions of standing orders 2, 6 and 15 be suspended in relation thereto.

3. That the provisions of standing orders 15, 41, 71 and 93 providing for the introduction, printing and consideration of notices of motions and bills by private members be suspended.

4. That the provisions of standing order 42 requiring unanimous consent for a motion in a case of urgent and pressing necessity be suspended.

5. That standing order 65 respecting the appointment of standing committees be suspended.

6. That the provisions of standing orders 75 and 78, restricting bills to a separate reading in each sitting be suspended.

7. That standing orders 81, 85 and 120 respecting the presentation of certain reports and the printing and distribution of a list of statutory documents be suspended.

That is the motion that was made at the special session when we were dealing with the railway strike and I think hon. gentlemen who were here will recall that we were able to deal in a reasonable and responsible fashion with the business that the house had to consider. I may say at this time that it is not the intention of the government, unless

[Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East).]

of course something that has not been foreseen were to occur, to introduce any other legislation but this appropriation bill.

Hon. W. Earl Rowe (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is rather a large order. It would appear to me that we might have until tomorrow to consider the motion, and take it as a notice of motion today.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): If hon. gentlemen feel they would like to read it and make sure it does not go beyond what would appear to them to be reasonable, I would have no objection to the putting of the motion standing over until the opening of tomorrow morning's session.

Mr. Coldwell: We cannot sit tomorrow morning unless this is passed.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): That is so, but possibly paragraphs 1 and 2 might be adopted, and paragraphs 3 and following left for further consideration. Paragraphs 1 and 2 have to do with sitting every day and the hours of sitting; that is all. Perhaps I could restrict my motion to those paragraphs 1 and 2 and have the consent of the house to present another motion with the remaining portion tomorrow morning.

Mr. Lennard: Let it stand until tomorrow.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): If we let it stand until tomorrow, we cannot meet tomorrow morning.

Mr. Lennard: All right.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Perhaps the hon. gentleman thinks it is all right, but I am under the impression the Canadian public would expect us to devote more time, while we are here, to considering these important matters.

Mr. Rowe: I do not want to hold up proceedings, Mr. Speaker, and I agree with the Prime Minister. In fact, I would even go farther and say that the Canadian public thought we should have met two weeks ago.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): We will answer that when the point is made.

Mr. Rowe: In any event, I would agree, if other hon. members would agree, that we meet tomorrow morning by unanimous consent at eleven o'clock and leave this motion over until tomorrow. This would serve your purpose to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

Mr. Coldwell: I do not know whether a motion is required for that.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): I think there should be something on record because