

Business of the House

Perhaps we might dispose of that point, and then I will recognize the President of the Privy Council.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton Centre asked the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether the government knew Mr. Holata had been arrested in Czechoslovakia and whether presentations had been made on his behalf.

The Canadian embassy in Prague learned on January 6, 1969, of the arrest of Mr. Holata, a dual national who emigrated to Canada in 1951 and obtained Canadian citizenship in 1957. Mr. Holata, who is employed as an electrician by the Department of Transport at Vancouver international airport, was arrested while visiting his parents in Joblanec for Christmas, and is charged with espionage on behalf of a nation other than Canada. The charge pertains to incidents which occurred prior to his immigration to Canada. Consular access was granted to the representatives of the embassy on January 23, 1969. The trial, which was to be held in early March, has been postponed pending completion of documentation by the prosecution. The embassy is providing all possible assistance to Holata and continues to press the Czechoslovakian authorities for an early trial.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in response to the inquiry about the business for the coming week, tomorrow we will call the omnibus bill to amend the Criminal Code. On Monday we will call it again. What the business will be for the balance of the coming week will depend very much on the progress made on that bill. Thursday will be an allotted day.

In view of the expressed intention of the Ralliement Creditiste to continue *ad infinitum* the debate on the Criminal Code bill, I think we can assume that for several more days at least we will be discussing that bill.

I will advise the house of any change in order of business.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Would the Chair permit a question on government business to the house leader? Would he tell the house when he expects to bring forward the debate for concurrence in

[Mr. Speaker.]

the fifth report of the Transport Committee, in order to prevent the honourable and distinguished chairman of that committee from resigning and following in the steps of the hon. member for Trinity?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I assume the hon. member and his colleagues will continue to filibuster that matter, so there seems little point in bringing it forth again.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask a supplementary question with respect to the comments of the President of the Privy Council? Would he consider, perhaps on Monday or Tuesday, calling a meeting of the house leaders to see if we might reach an agreement in regard to the time to be spent on Bill C-150?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would be glad to make those efforts again, but I can advise the hon. member and the house that repeatedly in the past several days I have sought to see if there was any change in the position of the Ralliement Creditiste and that I failed to get any indication that an agreement would be possible.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Possibly we could help you.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, April 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Trudeau:

That this house supports the government's policy of continued Canadian participation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the intention of the government, in consultation with Canada's allies, to take early steps to bring about a planned and phased reduction of the size of Canadian forces in Europe.

And the amendment thereto of Mr. Stanfield (p. 7875), and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands) (p. 7880).

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, so far this debate has produced two amendments to the motion put forward by the government, one from the Official Opposition and one from the New Democratic party and, if I may say so,