

*Labour Relations*

working almost to capacity, and that the pressure on the work force tends to push up costs, especially in the housing industry. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker—

• (6:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. member would take note of how fast the clock is moving. I think there has been agreement that we would take two hours off, but I hope that when we are out the clock will not go as fast as it is now moving.

**Mr. Patterson:** Mr. Speaker, this may have been an understanding among certain members of the house, but we are not aware of the fact that there has been an agreement to rise for two hours. However, if this is so, I shall be glad to reserve my remaining remarks until after the dinner hour.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION**

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE  
DEBATED UNDER ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock this day are as follows: The hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard), Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—opening of new French radio stations in English provinces; the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), Administration of Justice—failure of minister to give legal opinions.

Is there unanimous agreement that the house suspend its sitting until eight o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

SITTING SUSPENDED

—  
SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**LABOUR RELATIONS**

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR MEDIATOR'S  
REPORT IN RAILWAY DISPUTE

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask for unanimous consent to revert to motions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the house agree to the minister's request?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Mr. Patterson.]

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, the mediator appointed following the passage of the return to work legislation in connection with the railway strike, Dr. Carl Goldenberg, was directed to report before midnight tonight. I have received this report:

The railways and the unions have agreed to continue negotiations for a further short period and have asked me to request the minister to direct me to continue mediations and to report to him as soon as possible.

I accepted this request on one condition, that the report must be made not later than November 30. Perhaps I should say that the act provides that if the mediator's report indicates favourable progress, and I am convinced by the report I have now received from the mediator that progress of the nature referred to in section 9 of the act is being made, I should recommend to the Governor in Council an extension such as has been suggested to not later than November 30. I intend to so recommend.

**NATIONAL HOUSING ACT**

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING LOAN RATIO ON  
RENTAL HOUSING, LOANS ON EXISTING  
HOUSING, ETC.

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Nicholson for the second reading of Bill C-241, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

**Mr. Patterson:** Mr. Speaker, if I remember correctly, at six o'clock I was referring to the fact that in so far as the provision of housing is concerned we are operating at this time almost to full productive capacity. There is a shortage of skilled labour which has tended to push up construction costs. Tight money has been instituted on a number of occasions in an attempt to correct this problem.

If there is a serious shortage of skilled labour which is hampering activities in the house construction field, this is an indictment of the government's policies on immigration and the retraining of our own citizens. The government should have anticipated this situation and made appropriate provisions. In this way we could have avoided interference with the forward movement and development of our economy in relation to the cost of houses in Canada. The average cost of a house in Canada is prohibitive so far as the lower income earners are concerned.

At this time I should like to refer to a memorandum presented by the Canadian Labour Congress to the government of