

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 11, 1957

The house met at eleven o'clock.

RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES

Eighth report of standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines.—Mr. Fraser.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ADJOURNMENT FOR CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEARS

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works) moved:

That when this house adjourns on Saturday, December 21 next, it shall stand adjourned until 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, January 2, 1958.

He said: Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of the house I ask that the last line of this motion be changed to read "until 11.00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 1958".

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. member the unanimous consent of the house to make this change in the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion as amended agreed to.

STARRED QUESTIONS

TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—FEDERAL ACTION
ON PRICES

Question No. 22—Mr. Benidickson:

What steps, beyond the setting up of the Borden royal commission, is the government taking to assure, on an interim basis, that consumers will not be required to pay an inequitable price for natural gas from the Trans-Canada pipe line in areas where gas is already or is soon to be made available?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a major matter of concern, and it may be noted that in the powers given to the Borden commission the protection of the consumer as well as the producer is provided for, and that recommendations to the achievement of these ends are requested. The present situation is that any schedules covering costs that may be made applicable by the company will be filed with the board of transport commissioners, and immediate action will be taken in the event that anything of the nature feared by my hon. friend takes place.

I believe there is nothing further I can add at this time, except that I hope for an early recommendation in this connection by the Borden commission. The secretaries have been appointed. Mr. J. F. Parkinson of the Department of Finance and Major LaFrance of the Department of National Defence have been lent to the commission, and they have been working together in gathering the necessary information so that when the first of the sittings begins next week early recommendations in regard to these matters may be made.

POWER—PROVINCIAL REQUESTS FOR FEDERAL
ASSISTANCE

Question No. 45—Mr. Pickersgill:

1. On what date did the government of New Brunswick first request financial aid for Beechwood from the present government of Canada?

2. What was the form of the request and what was the nature and scale of the assistance requested?

3. On what date did the government of Saskatchewan first request the present government to join with Saskatchewan in the South Saskatchewan project?

4. On what date did the government of British Columbia approach the present government regarding the development of the Columbia river?

5. Has any other provincial government made any request for assistance or co-operation in any power project?

6. If so, which provincial governments and in respect of what projects?

Mr. Speaker: Stand?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I rise on a question of privilege, sir. We are being asked, according to the program announced by the house leader last night, to debate the Beechwood project before starred questions will come up again. I wonder if it would not be possible for the government to give an answer to these questions?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, the debate will take place I hope some day this week. Certainly every bit of information that is available then will be given to the hon. gentleman. He has dealt with three matters here, first the Beechwood matter and then the requests of the provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia. If my hon. friend will restrict his question to the first two parts at this time, I will see that an answer is given tomorrow.

Mr. Pickersgill: It seems to me that the questions are very simple. They ask for dates only.