

Science Council Report on Astronomy

● (4:00 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: My understanding of the order adopted a moment ago is that we shall now suspend the sitting until the call of the bells at approximately 4.50 p.m. I therefore do now leave the chair.

SITTING SUSPENDED

At 4.03 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

● (4:50 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 4.54 p.m.

AIR TRANSPORT

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BY TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been further reports on the air traffic controllers' ratification vote. While I can be optimistic about the result, I am advised that it is not final at the moment and that it is not possible to speak with certainty. I believe that around seven o'clock this evening it will be possible to do so. I would therefore suggest that the House make an order suspending the Standing Order with respect to the adjournment at five o'clock—

An hon. Member: Suspend the government, too.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Perhaps we should suspend these wisecracks until I have finished my remarks. I thought we might be able to go out and do something more useful, but if we are to have these interventions, I suppose we shall continue to sit.

I suggest we make an order to suspend the sitting until some time after seven o'clock to suit the convenience of the hon. members. I believe 7.15 or 7.30 might be convenient to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). We could then return for the purpose of making a final disposition of our plans for the day's sitting.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

SCIENCE COUNCIL

TABLING OF REPORT ON ASTRONOMY

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, may I take this [Mr. Speaker.]

opportunity, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), to table in both official languages a report by the Science Council of Canada on astronomy.

An hon. Member: What do the stars tell you?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I have consulted the government's astrologer, and he is predicting a good Christmas.

I believe my colleague the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) would like permission of the House to revert to motions for the purpose of making a statement with regard to pensions.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I say that we in this party are agreeable to the proposal made by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) with regard to the resumption of the sitting. I would hope, however, that a definite hour, say 7.30, might be fixed. We are all very hopeful about the outcome of the vote. We believe that the further the negotiations move away from the two presidents, the President of the Privy Council and the President of Treasury Board (Mr. Drury), the more likely they are to succeed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the government's favourite stargazer that he should set a specific time, rather than some unspecified time after seven o'clock. If the government is expecting some information, he might well set the time at eight o'clock. I would have no objection to being here at 7.30, but I do not want to attend at that time and then be told we have to sit around for another half hour until the information is available.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): If hon. members insist on eight o'clock, I am sure we can all find something to do in the extra hour.

Mr. Baldwin: Are the results coming by mail? If so, we may have to wait a little longer.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the relevant standing order be suspended and that the House should reconvene at eight o'clock this evening?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: Half past seven.