

take place, which would result in more productivity on the part of Canadian companies without infringing upon the interests of the individual Canadian in any way whatsoever.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ST. JOHN'S WEST, NEWFOUNDLAND—INQUIRY AS TO BY-ELECTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. It arises out of a reply he gave me on November 20, as recorded at page 1808 of *Hansard*. Does the Prime Minister not think that the residents of St. John's West, Newfoundland, are entitled to a representative in the House of Commons as soon as one can be elected?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It may be that the hon. gentleman may desire some information about a by-election. However, when he indicates at the beginning of his question "Does he not think that?" I am sure he is inviting an argumentative answer. Within those limitations I think I will allow the question, but with some doubt. If the Prime Minister wishes to reply he may do so.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the limitations are. Under law the government is required within a certain period of time to call by-elections. This government has called by-elections within a reasonable time. That course will be followed.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: No.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. Member: Dictator.

Mr. Pickersgill: More bad temper.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Tucker: May I ask a supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister think that a Liberal seat for our worthy leader at this time would be an appropriate New Year's gift?

Mr. Speaker: I think I will not comment on the question. I recognize the hon. member for Coast-Capilano.

INQUIRY AS TO CHRISTMAS RECESS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. For the convenience of aging

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Inquiries of the Ministry

members of parliament who have got beyond sitting up in a day coach, can the Prime Minister inform the house when he expects we will adjourn for Christmas so we can make the necessary arrangements for sleeping accommodation?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is a most desirable objective. I want the hon. gentleman to sleep and sleep comfortably at all times. We will try to give an answer to this question at an early date, having regard to the progress made with the matters that are before the house.

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—REPORTED TALKS RESPECTING SALE OF DOWNSTREAM BENEFITS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack Davis (Coast-Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The minister was good enough on Friday to tell the house that the Canadian government was currently participating in negotiations to sell downstream benefit power in the United States. Why is it doing so when, according to article VIII of the Columbia river treaty, the terms under which this sale can be made are to be established "as soon as possible after the ratification date"?

Mr. Speaker: Order. When an hon. member says "Why is it doing so because" he is inviting argument or is advancing argument, and that procedure is quite contrary to standing order 39.

[Later:]

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have reworded my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What is the point of the current negotiations on the Columbia, when the terms under which downstream power is to be sold in the United States—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will recognize immediately that he was arguing the point when he said "What is the point", in doing certain things, "if". I think he will agree that he is quite out of order.

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR GUARANTEES UNDER ACT ON MORTGAGES ON EXISTING HOMES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. P. Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have given the Minister of Public Works notice of this question and I should like to put it to him now. In order immediately to further the winter works program,