

Business of the House

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If not, we shall have to continue our opposition.

Mr. Broadbent: We have no inside information on that.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The other question relates to a matter that I raised with the government House leader on July 2, as noted at page 7170 of *Hansard*, having to do with the announcement in the budget speech that there would be legislation to increase the rate of return on existing Government of Canada annuities. On that occasion the minister indicated, in replying to my question, that there would be an explanation with respect to this matter before we rise for the summer recess. Since we might rise within a week or so, can the minister tell us what the precise plans are respecting these proposed improvements in government annuities?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, on the first point, which I think was not meant to be taken very seriously, I hope that no member on the other side is sending out any letters suggesting that the excise tax is going to be lifted. However, while the Minister of Finance, if I may say, on a previous occasion said he would consider the representations that were made, he has made it quite clear, and so has the government, that this legislation must be approved.

On the second point, since giving the reply to my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre I have talked with my colleagues and I am informed that legislation is required. It is now being prepared on an urgent basis and will be introduced after the recess, not before.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, on this point of order, before things get out of control I would like to get things straight about the proposal made recently by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) that the House sit on Saturday to end up consideration of Bill C-66 before the summer recess.

I want to point out to the hon. member for Peace River that there is no indication that the sun will not shine next week and that we can come back, if necessary, to finish consideration of this bill. We have been expecting for at least two years legislation to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act. The minister promised it would be taken into consideration, and he does not talk about it any more now. I would like to know what he intends to do with the bill, or at least with some of the amendments that the public is expecting.

[English]

Mr. Lawrose: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I understood—or perhaps I misunderstood—from questions and conversations that some of us had had with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) that he was going to table the multilateral agreement between the IAEA and the government of Argentina respecting safeguards for the CANDU nuclear reactor. I was hoping that he would do this today.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of that particular agreement in the English language only and I should like to get a French translation. But I will either

hand it to my hon. friend this afternoon or table it tomorrow.

Mr. Smith (Churchill): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, concerning the Standing Order 43 motion I proposed today, my colleagues and I in this particular corner of the House did not hear any nays. If there were negative votes, I cannot understand why they would not be voiced loudly. My motion was only sending congratulations to the first people of this country on the celebration of their centennial.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Smith (Churchill): As I say, I did not hear any nays.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I think Your Honour said that at 3.25 I would be permitted to raise a point of order. My point of order has to do with an answer given by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to the effect that he had not had any correspondence with the Ukrainian-Canadian committee, and naturally, except on anything concerning a personal allegation, I believe him. But I would point out that the telegram sent to the Prime Minister and the copies sent to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) were dispatched from Winnipeg on July 22.

Your Honour said ten minutes had been devoted to this matter. All across this country, sir, and among 100 million captive peoples, there is deep concern over this conference, of which parliament knows nothing except, as the Prime Minister said, what he deigned to let the people know through press conferences. Press conferences do not take the place of parliament in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I asked him two questions; he is entitled not to answer. The first was with reference to boundaries being determined that were the consequence of conquest, where 100 million people who love freedom as you and I love freedom are denied the opportunity of self-determination. They are afraid another Munich is in the offing and they want parliament to place their views before the people. We have had no opportunity to do so.

This is the first time in all the years since Mr. Mackenzie King was prime minister that this House has not regularly had debates on external affairs. The Prime Minister answered me by speaking about something else. I have done my duty. I endeavoured to do something for those people who today are denied freedom and for those in Canada of various racial origin who have asked for action. All we have received in return is the contemptuous brush-off of a group of Liberal members who endeavoured to howl me down when I tried to place before the House something that touches the heart not only of those of various racial origin but of all Canadians who love freedom.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the point of order raised by the right hon. gentleman gives me an opportunity to say that I have had similar representations from various