

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 13, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

THE BUDGET

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL MEASURES—ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESENTATION ON MONDAY DECEMBER 19

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the house that I have arranged two meetings with provincial ministers here in Ottawa early next week. On Monday I will meet with the provincial ministers concerned with consumer credit regulations to discuss a number of matters relating to this subject. On Tuesday I will meet, as is now usual at this time of year, with provincial treasurers and ministers of finance to discuss the economic situation and its bearing upon our mutual financial problems. In view of these arrangements, which have now been confirmed, the government proposes that the supplementary financial measures will be introduced Monday evening, December 19, at eight o'clock.

[Translation]

ENDORSEMENT OF BILLS ACT

MEASURE REQUIRING USE OF NORMAN FRENCH

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve) asked leave to introduce Bill No. C-257, an act respecting the endorsement of bills.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[English]

BROADCASTING ACT AMENDMENT

INCLUSION OF ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY BANDS IN TELEVISION SETS

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-258, to amend the Broadcasting Act (television receiving apparatus).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Prittie: Mr. Speaker, on November 25 the Board of Broadcast Governors announced that they were recommending to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) that applications involving the use of ultra high frequency

channels for television broadcasting should be accepted. At the present time very few of the T.V. receiving sets manufactured in Canada or imported into Canada are capable of receiving UHF stations. The purpose of this bill is to empower the Board of Broadcast Governors to require the manufacturers of television receiving sets to include an ultra high frequency band on each unit.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

AIR TRANSPORT

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL—FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT REPORT IN LABOUR DISPUTE—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 26

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the house under standing order 26 to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, namely the threatened strike by the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association as a result of the refusal of the government to accept the recommendations of Judge John Robinson, the conciliator appointed by the government.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member address the Chair on the question of urgency of debate?

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite evident that the reluctance of the government to deal with matters of a similar nature in the past makes it extremely urgent that parliament should be given the opportunity to discuss the present situation prior to any strike taking place.

Some 650 members of the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association are now in the process of a strike vote, and the result of that strike vote will be announced tonight. In view of the fact that they have accepted the recommendations of Judge Robinson, recommendations which the government is rejecting, it seems obvious that the vote will be in favour of a strike by an overwhelming majority.

We have had sufficient lessons in similar situations where the government has been reluctant to take any action. The present situation is far more serious because of the fact that the government is one of the parties involved in the dispute.