

reasonably successful. I believe that if you combine the comments made by the government House leader and those made by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) you will get a picture of what it is to which we have agreed. May I point out that the proposal for a suspension until four o'clock is one that in our view should not come into effect until after the introduction of bills, so that the two bills in question will have been introduced and will have received first reading.

Although our leader was ready to speak immediately in response to any statement the Prime Minister might make—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Baldwin: It is a good thing you are not under oath, Stanley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): There is one thing about my leader; he always does what I say he will do. We also feel it would be a good idea to have time to look at the bill to amend the Old Age Security Act and to look at the Prime Minister's statement before we proceed further.

We also agree to the proposal that when the bill to amend the Old Age Security Act has had second reading, it could be considered in committee of the whole rather than being sent to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs. Accordingly, we are a party to the agreement that has been reached thus far today.

● (1420)

Mr. Speaker: Is it the wish of the House that the bills in question be introduced at this time, and that the sitting be suspended thereafter until four o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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### OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

#### PROVISION FOR QUARTERLY ADJUSTMENT OF PENSION

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-219, to amend the Old Age Security Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time? Later this day?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

### Privilege—Miss MacDonald

#### STATUTE LAW (SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS) AMENDMENT ACT, 1973

##### PROVISION FOR REMOVAL OF TWO PER CENT LIMIT ON ESCALATION, REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLE AGE, ETC.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-220, to amend the statute law providing for the payment of supplementary retirement benefits to certain persons in receipt of pensions payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time? Later this day?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, it might be worth recording that we are agreeable to dealing with the old age security bill in the committee of the whole. If that could be understood we could agree to the suspension until four o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Is it therefore agreed that the House suspend the sitting until the call of the bells at four o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

#### SITTING SUSPENDED

At 2.23 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

#### SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 4 p.m.

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### PRIVILEGE

#### MISS MACDONALD—INTERROGATION BY POLICE CONCERNING FILES MISSING FROM INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Earlier this afternoon the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) proposed a privilege motion. The Chair ruled at that time that there was a prima facie case of privilege. At the suggestion of some hon. members it was agreed that the ensuing formalities might be considered after discussions or consultations between the House leaders. Those have taken place and it has been agreed that the motion should be put and the matter referred, without debate, to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

I would therefore put the motion proposed by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands, seconded by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather):

That all matters pertaining to the interrogation of myself and my staff on Friday last be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections for study and report.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to.