

[English]

### LABOUR RELATIONS

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF SETTLEMENT OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN RAILWAY SHOPCRAFT EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** This is not my normal day in the House, Mr. Speaker, but it may be the last occasion before the festive season or before the recess when I can make a statement on motions. I welcome this opportunity to report briefly regarding a matter of interest to all members of the House. It concerns the collective bargaining currently in process between the railways and certain unions representing some of the employees of the railways.

As members are aware, some time ago I announced the appointment of what I described as industry specialists to assist in the process of minimizing industrial unrest and, more particularly, to assist in obtaining collective agreements prior to the expiry date of existing contracts. Hon. members may recall that this approach resulted in an early settlement in the railway industry in 1968.

I am pleased, therefore, to announce that it can be safely stated that the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway will sign within the hour a memorandum of settlement with unions representing some 20,000 shopcraft employees. This constitutes, if ratified, a settlement ten days before the present contract expires.

● (11:50 a.m.)

In conclusion, I would like, therefore, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute not only to the representatives of the unions and the companies but also to our industry specialist, Mr. Arthur Gibbons, and my director of conciliation and arbitration, Mr. William Kelly, who have worked very closely with the parties for several weeks. In my opinion, both Mr. Kelly and Mr. Gibbons remind us of the fact that our public servants rank with the best in any country.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I say a word or two in response to the welcome announcement just made by the Minister of Labour. We are glad to learn that a settlement has been reached and that the signing of it is in prospect today between Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway on the one hand and representatives of the shopcraft unions on the other. I have no objection to the minister taking credit for his department for the good job that has been done. It is a good job for the industry and a good job for Canada.

There is just one point I should like to make, Mr. Speaker. If my information is correct, the issue of pensions was not on the table, at least toward the end of these negotiations, and that is probably one of the reasons why it has been possible to reach agreement. I suggest to the minister that as far as the other railway unions are concerned there is a good deal more anxiety over the pension issue and that settlement in those cases may not be possible within the foreseeable future.

### Business of the House

I therefore urge the minister to do everything that he can on the issue of pensions. In particular I urge that he make available these good offices that he has spoken of, and his own good offices, to his colleague, the Minister of Transport, to get Canadian National Railways to realize that if they would comply with the unanimous wish of this House of Commons concerning pension increases the whole issue would be settled a lot sooner and we would have peace in the railway industry.

This is a terribly important part of the whole railway issue, and it is not good enough for the government not to get involved in it. The Minister of Transport is a good man but he needs help, and I urge the Minister of Labour to give him that help so that this issue can be settled, preferably before Christmas.

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### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### AGREEMENT RESPECTING DISPOSITION OF BILL C-205

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** If I might have leave of the House I would ask whether we might establish the proper relationship between the motion on the order paper in the name of the President of the Privy Council and the disposition of Bill C-205. As I understand it, the House is of the opinion that we should proceed to deal with Bill C-205 both at the report stage and at subsequent stages despite the provisions of the Standing Orders. If that is the view of the President of the Privy Council and other hon. members, possibly the House might make its views plain at this time.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, this is the ambition of the government and if the words of the opposition House Leader could be put in the form of a House order that would be very helpful.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We gave our agreement earlier, Mr. Speaker, and we still stand by it.

[Translation]

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** We agree, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it so ordered?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is so ordered.

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[Translation]

### CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT

#### AMENDMENT RESPECTING MINIMUM RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-213, intituled: "An Act to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act (Minimum residence requirement)".