

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, May 11, 1961

The house met at 11 a.m.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES TO
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the house knows, the President of the United States will speak to a joint meeting of the House of Commons and Senate on Wednesday afternoon beginning at 2.30. It occurred to me that the house might give some consideration to the order of business that day.

As usual the house will convene at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. We could then continue until one o'clock. Many preparations have to be made in order to make possible the joint meeting of the two houses, and by the time the afternoon proceedings have concluded and we are in a position to have the staffs clear away the chairs, radio, television equipment and the like, most of the afternoon would have passed away before any business could be done.

I hope the house might agree that at the conclusion of the President's address we would not reconvene. If that is accepted in place of a motion, I offer to the house the suggestion that on Wednesday next at one o'clock when the adjournment takes place the house be formally adjourned until the next day. I hope there can be agreement in that connection.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): The arrangements which the Prime Minister has outlined for next Wednesday are satisfactory to us on this side.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Agreed here, also.

Mr. Speaker: Then I take it that by unanimous consent the house orders that on Wednesday next when the house adjourns at one o'clock it shall stand adjourned until the following morning at eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHOTOGRAPH OF
HOUSE IN SESSION

Mr. Speaker: While we are discussing the arrangements for Wednesday, may I ask leave of hon. members—and if there is no dissident

voice I take it I have leave—to arrange a photograph of the house. We shall have the facilities in connection with the President's visit and, the following morning, a good photograph, which does not exist today, of the house in session could be taken by leaving some equipment here for that purpose.

I would not consider making the arrangement if there were any objection raised in regard to it, but if there is not I think hon. members might like to have a good photograph of the house in session which we could use in our gallery pamphlet and booklets.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NATO—TABLING OF COMMUNIQUE
ON OSLO MEETING

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Yesterday I stated that I would ask leave to table a copy of the communique which was issued at the conclusion of the NATO ministerial meeting which took place in Oslo from May 8 to 10. I should also like to make a statement to supplement the communique. The Secretary of State for External Affairs will, when he returns, give the house the benefit of the impressions he formed in the course of the meeting. However, there are some general observations which might be made.

The NATO foreign ministers usually meet in the spring each year to review the various problems confronting the alliance. Military problems are not excluded from the discussion, although the defence posture of the alliance is usually examined in greater detail at the December meeting, which is attended as well by the defence and finance ministers of the various member countries. It was the first meeting of the council under the chairmanship of the new secretary general, Mr. D. U. Stikker of the Netherlands.

In Oslo the foreign ministers stressed once more the defensive character of the alliance, but recognized that the menace which drew them together is now not only military but also has world wide political, economic, scientific and psychological aspects. They reaffirmed NATO's determination to help build a world free from war and also free from the false Marxist doctrine of continuing and inevitable conflict.

One of the main threats to world peace is the lack of progress in the solution of the problem of Germany, including Berlin. The