

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

comprising three or five judges, one of whom at least speaks the language of the accused.

In that case, the judges by consulting each other will better understand the testimony and the defence of the accused.

For these reasons, I believe that it would be necessary to be very cautious when choosing judges who will have to hear the cases of the accused.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock it is my duty to inform the house that the proceedings are now deemed to have been completed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

COMMUNICATIONS—SOUTHERN LABRADOR— REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY REINSTATE- MENT OF D.O.T. SERVICE

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, on October 29, about eight or nine days ago, during the regular question period I asked the following question:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the target date of Bell Canada for improved telephone service in southern Labrador has been set ahead to January, 1970, and in view of the fact that the Department of Transport withdrew its radio, telephone and telegram service from that area on August 1 of this year to coincide with the inauguration of the improved Bell Canada service which did not materialize, will the Minister of Transport arrange for the radio, telephone and telegram service of the Department of Transport to be reinstated and maintained until such time as Bell Canada has completed its installation in 1970 and is capable of providing reasonable communications in that area?

You were quite right when you said that I had made a representation, but Your Honour said the question should be placed on the order paper. I must say, with all respect, that I cannot accept that suggestion because the result of putting it on the order paper would be that the answer would not be forthcoming for about two months, at which time the question would become obsolete. For that reason I have to take it up with the minister now. I communicated this problem to the

[*Mr. Laprise.*]

Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) in a letter which I wrote him on July 11. It reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Jamieson: I am enclosing a petition received from the residents of Henley Harbour, Labrador, regarding the proposal of the Department of Transport to withdraw its radio-telephone service from South Labrador as of August 1, 1969. I have also received correspondence from several other communities in Labrador South requesting that the service of your department be maintained until the Bell Canada service is brought up to a better standard.

I support this petition, and ask that you also give it sympathetic consideration.

I would appreciate your comments.

Yours sincerely,
Ambrose Peddle, M.P.

• (10:00 p.m.)

I received a very prompt reply on July 15, four days afterwards, from Mr. Ross, special assistant to the minister, saying that the minister was out of town, and advising me that my letter and the petition I had forwarded had been brought to the attention of the appropriate officials for their consideration and report; on receipt of that report they would be pleased to get in touch with me again. On August 14, about 30 days later, I had a communication from the minister which read:

Further to the letter of July 15 from my Special Assistant, concerning the withdrawal of the department's radio-telephone message service at Henley Harbour, I share your concern and will do everything possible to ensure that adequate service is provided to the residents of this area.

Before that, during that and following that I received a number of petitions from the area of Labrador south. The people there are very concerned because Bell Canada was supposed to have a decent service inaugurated by August 1, and on this basis the Department of Transport decided to withdraw its service on August 1. However, Bell Canada, because of certain problems caused by strikes and God knows what, found they could not improve their service. I have been in communication with Bell Canada who have told me there were a number of parts—I do not know the technical names for them—that were needed but could not be provided. They now tell me that these parts cannot be made available until late November, that a number of them will be assembled in Montreal and forwarded to Labrador south, and that improvement to the service will be in full effect as of some time in January, 1970.

I have had communications and petitions from people in places such as Port Hope Simpson, Labrador; Henley Harbour, Marys