

UNITED NATIONS

EMERGENCY FORCE—TABLING OF ORDER IN COUNCIL

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, by leave of the house I should like to table copies, in English and in French, of order in council P.C. 1956/1712 of November 20, 1956, relating to Canada's participation in the United Nations emergency force for service in the Middle East.

(For text of order in council see page 105.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS—DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with the speech from the throne and this order in council before the house I would beg leave to move—as it was my privilege to move at the special session we had in 1951—for certain relaxations of some of the rules of the house in order to deal with this matter. The motion, which is substantially similar to that which was accepted by the house in 1951, is as follows—

Mr. Knowles: In 1950.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Yes; in 1950. The motion is as follows:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 55, the house will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and also into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

That Edward T. Applewhaite, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Skeena, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East) moves, seconded by the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Howe):

That, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 55, this house will, at its next sitting, later this day, resolve itself—

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): No. Would Your Honour be kind enough to strike out "later this day"? I think it would be at the next sitting of the house because that is an indefinite term which means when it can be reached after the sitting of this house.

Mr. Speaker: Then the motion will read as follows:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 55, this house will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and also into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Then there is a second paragraph. Does the Prime Minister intend to make the two subject matters the object of one motion or are there supposed to be two different motions?

Business of the House

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): If Your Honour felt it was better to submit the paragraphs separately, I would have no objection to that course being followed. All that is desired is to have the committee of supply and the committee of ways and means set up so that a message from His Excellency with respect to the supply to be asked for may be referred to that committee to be dealt with by the committee when we can reach it in the due course of the proceedings.

Mr. Rowe: Mr. Speaker, I would understand that there should be notice of the motion. However, I do not think there will be much opposition to it. It is understood that it is merely setting up the committees?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): Yes.

Mr. Rowe: And it is understood that we will proceed with the speech from the throne tomorrow?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): No, we will proceed with the speech from the throne this afternoon. It is not the intention of the government to try to thwart the desire of any of the hon. members with respect to discussion of the speech from the throne. We had hoped that hon. members might find it more convenient to have the whole discussion on the estimate. But if that procedure is not agreeable, it is not our intention to force anybody's hand or mind in respect of that procedure.

Mr. Fleming: May I ask the Prime Minister if that means that the government will not seek to resolve the house into committee of supply until the house has indicated that it has completed the debate on the address or unanimously agreed to some other course?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): We will see what course the debate takes. I would hope it would not be necessary, on a speech from the throne the length of the one to which we have listened this afternoon, to have a 10-day debate. I would hope that would not be the case. There are things, I think, that are more serious at this time than the discussion of procedure. I think all hon. members will want to reach a point where a decision can be made as to whether or not the house is going to allow the government to carry out the decision implemented in the order in council that I have just tabled. We will see how things proceed. We do not intend to precipitate matters, and it will be our desire to proceed in a way that will meet what we apprehend is the wish of the