

Business of the House

the advances that have taken place, is the general purpose of our party today, namely to have the best legislation in the interests of the consumers of this country, which will at the same time protect the independence of our people from officialdom and from the rigid type of prices which seem to be so affectionately regarded by some of the members of the C.C.F. party.

Mr. St. Laurent: May I move the adjournment of this debate until later this day, not for the purpose of complying with the suggestion of the leader of the opposition but for the purpose of reverting for a few moments, as was agreed this morning, to the notice of motion with respect to the date to which adjournment should be taken when the house adjourns this day.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

On motion of Mr. St. Laurent the debate was adjourned until later this day.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 27

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved:

That, notwithstanding any other previous order of this house, when this house adjourns on Friday, December 21, 1951, unless it be otherwise ordered at that time, it stand adjourned until Thursday, December 27, 1951, at 11 o'clock a.m.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it has, I think, become evident that it is not reasonable to expect that, either today or tomorrow, the business of the house could be completed with the care that should be given to matters of that importance, and that it will be necessary to have some further time than that which would remain this day and tomorrow. That being the case, unless an order is made, the house would be required, under the existing orders, to sit tomorrow, Monday and even Christmas day. I do not think that would be the desire of hon. members. I am suggesting that, when we reach the hour of adjournment today, the adjournment be to Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. At that time I would hope we would be able to give to the matters that are still to be dealt with such further consideration as may be required, and that they can be disposed of in an orderly and proper manner. I would like to submit this motion so hon. members would know at this time that they would not be required to be here tomorrow, nor the day before Christmas, nor Christmas day, nor even the day after Christmas, but only on the following day.

[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): There are just one or two comments I should like to make. There was one point on which I was not clear. The Prime Minister said the house will adjourn today at what hour?

Mr. St. Laurent: The order that is in existence provides that the house shall adjourn, without question put, at ten o'clock. That is the order that is in effect at the present time.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I certainly am not going to raise any objection to the time of adjournment today, but I do raise the question as to whether it is desirable that the time at which we should meet on Thursday next should be at eleven o'clock in the morning, in view of the fact that a number of the trains and planes on which hon. members will be coming in that day will not bring them in by that time. It is generally recognized that the afternoon sitting permits hon. members to arrive here in time to attend. I am simply putting this forward. As will be recognized, it does not affect me personally, but there are a number of hon. members who might be affected by that hour. The other point that I wish to make is this. We still have a very large amount of important business on the order paper in addition to the measure now under consideration. We of course have not had the advantage of seeing the amendment to the Public Works Act, but I can assure hon. members that unless the amendment very substantially varies the bill that is before us, that debate will not be short.

There are other measures of considerable importance. I do think, in making a decision as to the time we should meet, that full regard should be had to what course will be followed. Do we again adjourn for New Year's day? Of course if it is not intended to adjourn for New Year's day no problem arises in that respect. But I would merely put forward the suggestion to the Prime Minister that perhaps he might consider even at this moment just what the proposal would be in that respect, because if there were any thought of making any break for New Year's day then perhaps consideration might be given to the advantage of adjourning until a date in January, somewhere about the middle of that month.

I have no thought of making any amendment or of opposing the resolution. I will accept whatever resolution is put forward in regard to the carrying on of the business of this house as rapidly as possible, consistent with the traditional rights of parliament. But I just put this forward for consideration. In January the greatest living statesman is going to visit Ottawa. The greatest parliamentarian under our parliamentary system will be here; and if the adjournment is going to carry us