

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROPOSED ENTRY INTO PRINTING FIELD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister yet in a position to make any statement regarding the proposal of Canadian National Railways to go into the printing business?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have received representations from various people, and these representations have been sent to the management of the C.N.R. The management of the C.N.R. has been in touch with these people, and that is where the matter stands now.

PUBLIC WORKS

KAMLOOPS, B.C.—REPORTED USE BY MINISTER OF GOLD PLATED SHOVEL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, there is one more question I wish to address to the Minister of Public Works. In view of newspaper reports to the effect that the minister turned the first sod for a new federal building at Kamloops on Saturday, October 13, with a gold plated shovel which has been placed in the local museum, would the minister inform the house whether this gold plated shovel was purchased at the expense of his department?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member blotted an otherwise good copybook for today when he asked that question.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, do you think that the question, having been asked, might be answered? I am quite prepared to bow to your ruling, but the hon. member made a statement—

Some hon. Members: Out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If there was ever a question out of order today, that was it.

WAYS AND MEANS

On the order: Order No. 27: House again in committee of ways and means.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. My point of order is based on standing order 58 and on the indication the government has given as to the purpose in calling the item that has just been read from the table. Standing order 58 reads as follows:

Ways and Means

When an order of the day is called for the house to go into committee of ways and means, Mr. Speaker shall leave the chair without question put—

That is what Your Honour was about to do had I not risen quite so quickly. The standing order continues:

—but the provisions of this section shall not apply when the said order is called for the purpose of enabling a minister of the crown to make the budget presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I will refrain from getting into an argument regarding substance. I ask that you, sir, and the house note what has been said in recent days, last Thursday and Friday in particular, about today's business. It is quite clear that this order is being called so that the Minister of Finance can make a general statement on economic matters, so that he can discuss budgetary matters and lead into the presentation of the budget resolutions.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that what is being asked for today is an opportunity for a minister of the crown to make a budget presentation. That being the case, the requirement of the standing order is quite clear. The requirement is that when the order is called for the purpose of enabling a minister of the crown to make a budget presentation, the provisions of subsection 1 of standing order 58 shall not apply. That means that if we are being asked to make arrangements today for a budget presentation, Mr. Speaker cannot leave the chair without question put; rather, the provisions of subsection 2 and the other subsections of standing order 58 come into effect.

I remind you, sir, that standing order 58 is relatively new. It was brought in in its present form in 1955. I was a member of the committee which drafted it, and I remember the discussions quite well. Prior to that time the order regarding the committee of ways and means read in such a way that it was possible to have a debate with Mr. Speaker in the chair every time the committee of ways and means was called. It was assumed in that committee that this was becoming inappropriate; that we should cut out the extra debates on the order for ways and means, but protect the one spot each year or each session as the case may be.

This is the one occasion this session when a budget presentation will be made, and in view of the fact that we have not had a budget presentation at any time in the year 1962-63 it is appropriate the government should now make one. I submit it is making such a presentation and that the latter part of standing order 58(1) applies, and that you should not leave the chair but, rather, that