

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, September 21, 1973

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Second report of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections—Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay).

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF MOTION TO AMEND EXCISE TAX ACT

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner), and pursuant to Standing Order 60(1), I am now tabling notice of a ways and means motion.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 1973

On the order: Motions:

September 19, 1973—The Minister of Justice:

That, when the House adjourns this day, it shall stand adjourned until October 15, 1973, provided that at any time prior to that date, if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

That, in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Chairman of Committees shall act in his stead for all purposes of this order.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would propose today to move the motion standing in my name, but if it is agreeable to hon. members and there is consent I would be glad to have the opportunity to move it after the question period rather than at this moment.

Mr. Baldwin: We would be glad to give effect to this suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Agreed.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture.

An hon. Member: The campaign starts today!

An hon. Member: In what capacity is he speaking?

An hon. Member: Here comes the leader.

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AGRICULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESTORATION OF TARIFF ON CATTLE AND BEEF IMPORTED FROM UNITED STATES

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Declare your intention.

Mr. Whelan: —that the tariff on cattle and beef removed in the budget last February is being restored effective midnight tonight.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whelan: You will recall that the amendments to the customs tariff approved by parliament provided for restoration of any of the tariff changes where it was determined that hardship could be demonstrated. There has been considerable distortion in the cattle and beef markets caused by the earlier United States action on prices which led to the holdback of supplies in that country. The significant movement of cattle and beef to Canada in recent weeks has brought beef prices down significantly and cattlemen are uncertain about future production potential.

In the interests of continuing beef production in Canada at a level adequate for our needs and our export opportunities confidence must be restored, and this action is in keeping with that objective. This action will be in the long-term interest of consumers and is consistent with the government's announced objective to increase the supply of food in Canada through increased producer confidence and other appropriate measures.

It should be noted that there are tariffs on cattle and beef entering the United States. Should the United States administration consider removing their tariffs on these items, we would of course review the situation.

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent Essex): Mr. Speaker, in replying on short notice to the announcement made by the minister in the House this morning, I must say that mem-