

*Business of the House*

referred to in detail at this particular moment by the leaders of the other parties, though they may wish to make comments on them, but I would suggest that they be used as a basis of discussion with the house leaders of the other parties in case they may have some views to bring forward in connection with them. Meanwhile I put them to the house for discussion.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the house will appreciate the full report given by the Prime Minister respecting the balance of the session. Let me say at once that in so far as the estimates are concerned, I think there will be general agreement that they should be proceeded with in the manner indicated by him. Last February we found ourselves in the position of being defeated before the estimates could be dealt with, and naturally these estimates, covering in the main as they do matters which we had ready and explanations that we intended to make, will receive that same degree of co-operation in securing their passage through parliament that has been evidenced in the case of the estimates of several departments which have already been before the house.

The Prime Minister has said that there is plenty of business. In looking over the order paper I can only conclude that there is not very much business of immediate importance, except two or three matters to which he alluded. I was particularly interested in hearing about the Columbia river project. We were told that arrangements had been made with regard to this matter. All was in a happy state. Agreement had been arrived at with British Columbia. Indeed, with the new era of Canadian-American relations this was one matter that would be ready for this session. However, the best laid plans of mice and men "gang aft a-gley". We now find that the Columbia river project is in a state of suspended animation.

Then there is the Canada development corporation. This was something that represented a great step forward for Canada and its economy. We have not heard much of it lately. It is still on the order paper. It had priority earlier, but it now becomes of secondary importance awaiting the new year.

Then there is the Canada pension plan. It has had its ups and its downs. When the Prime Minister says that the government believes in a national portable contributory pension plan well and securely laid, there is no disagreement over here. The trouble with the plan that was placed before the house and is today on the order paper is that it was not workable and there was no consultation. Indeed, the government have put the cart before the horse. They went ahead with the

plan and they were going to shove it through come what may. The provinces demanded consultation, as did the opposition. But now, after this wonderful plan had been conceived and produced in part, we have to wait until the new year because there have been no consultations.

There is one thing that seems clear. The ill digested and ill considered plan that was brought before the house is now as dead as a dodo, and in its place a plan is going to be evolved, following consultation, which will be well and securely founded. That is the kind of legislation for which we asked, and we are glad that the government at last has seen the error of its ways in this regard and is going to produce this kind of legislation instead of the monstrosity that was laid before the house earlier this year.

In so far as the other matters mentioned by the Prime Minister are concerned, the technical and vocational training, the income tax legislation and the surcharge legislation, those are matters of importance. They have been considered already at some length. Certainly there should be no great delay in the passage of two of them through parliament. In so far as the surcharge legislation is concerned, we shall deal with that matter when it is before the house.

I could make reference to many other items mentioned by the Prime Minister. I simply say it is always helpful to have a plan; it is always beneficial to have an objective. The Prime Minister has given us both, and that has been done throughout the years. As so often happens, other things find their way into the agenda and these plans, however desirous all of us are for the conclusion of this session before Christmas, may not be brought to a conclusion in relation to each and every one of the matters to which he referred. I was glad to see the redistribution measure on the list because it is one that will require co-operation from all parts of the house. Since we gave the lead in this regard, it will be taken out of the realm of partisan politics. In the setting up of the Indian claims committee, the government will be carrying out a project which we had ready.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, this session began, as all sessions do, with a speech from the throne. The purpose of that speech was to let parliament know what the program of business was for the ensuing session. We have not made much progress on the speech from the throne that was read to us in the other place so, in effect, today we have had another speech from the throne given to us by the Prime Minister. I hope we get along better with this revised bill of fare than we did with the one with which we started this session. In