

Redistribution Commission

advertising but this, together with all such specific matters, was finally referred to the working group. This group is to be made up of specialists drawn from the provinces working closely with the voluntary groups and the representatives of the industry.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

REQUEST THAT COPIES OF STATEMENTS BE
MADE AVAILABLE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): In view of the interest in the federal-provincial conference which is taking place, I wonder whether the Acting Prime Minister could tell us if copies of the various provincial statements and of any formal statements which are made by the federal government could be made available to members at an early date.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Acting Prime Minister): My understanding is that all these statements are public and that they are available, but I will inquire at once to see if they can be given to members in their boxes in the usual way.

RAILWAY ACT

AMENDMENT EXTENDING PAYMENTS FROM
GRADE CROSSING FUND

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-110, to amend the Railway Act.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to say I am glad to see that the point I raised yesterday has been met. I refer to the fact that in the previous copy of the bill there was a difference in wording between the marginal note and the text of the bill. That has now been corrected and the same terminology is used in the text and in the marginal note; this has been done both in English and in French.

Thus the matter has been taken care of.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

REDISTRIBUTION

PROVISION FOR OFFICE OF REPRESENTATION
COMMISSIONER AND READJUSTMENT
OF REPRESENTATION

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure respecting the office of representation commissioner and to define the duties of the commissioner under the said measure, in addition to those assigned to him under the Canada Elections Act and under a

measure to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions to report upon the readjustment of the representation of the provinces in the House of Commons and to provide for the readjustment of such representation in accordance therewith; to provide for the salary and expenses of the commissioner; to provide for the appointment of a substitute commissioner and for the payment of his salary and expenses; to authorize the commissioner to appoint such officers and employees as are necessary for the conduct of his office and to engage on a temporary basis persons having technical or specialized knowledge of matters relating to the work of the commissioner; to increase the salary of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada and to effect certain other changes in the Canada Elections Act consequential upon the said measure; and to provide for the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund under the authority of the said measure of all amounts required for the payment of salary and other expenses under the said measure and under the measure to provide for the establishment of electoral boundaries commissions, including expenses of administration thereunder.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, before the hon. gentleman goes ahead with his presentation, I am wondering whether he would be prepared, in view of the fact that this is part and parcel of a general electoral change, to agree that the whole field be covered at one time in general discussion, rather than going over the same ground later or restricting the discussion in committee to the terminology of this particular resolution.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, the right hon. gentleman has anticipated a suggestion I was going to make to the house, which I think is a very helpful one and I appreciate his suggestion very much. I assume he is speaking for his friends, and I hope I am speaking for mine, and I appeal to hon. gentlemen in the corner to agree that we regard the debate on this resolution as a general debate on the problem of redistribution and the proposals which are being laid before the house for a method of dealing with this problem. In that context perhaps—

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, may I say that we agree but we wonder, in view of the fact that such agreement could have been anticipated, why the minister did not proceed with first reading of the other bill today.

Mr. Pickersgill: I was just going to explain that too.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is it because there was not a resolution?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, Mr. Chairman, it is because the resolution which is now before the committee envisages all the payments that would require to be made, and all the financing, for both measures. Perhaps I should explain right away why that is. The bill that I did not introduce today was not introduced