

bers to compose the standing committees of this house under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Fournier (Hull), Claxton, Casselman, Knowles and Weir.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council, appointing the Hon. J. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Mines and Resources, the Hon. Colin Gibson, Secretary of State, the Hon. Alphonse Fournier, Minister of Public Works, the Hon. D. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled: An act respecting the House of Commons.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Report of the joint librarians of parliament.
—Mr. Speaker.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RESIGNATION OF CLERK ASSISTANT AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CLERK ASSISTANT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess the resignation has been received of Roy T. Graham, Esquire, K.C., as clerk assistant, and that John T. Dun, Esquire, Chief of Committees and Private Legislation Branch, has been appointed as deputy clerk assistant.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MOTION FOR PRECEDENCE OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS —DEBATE ON ADMISSION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INTO CONFEDERATION

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move, seconded by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe):

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Thursday next, and that this order have precedence over all business except the introduction of bills and government notices of motions on Thursday and Friday, January 27 and 28, 1949.

I had intended at the same time to move for an order of the house on the subject of business of the house next week, but I have been informed by some hon. members that that arrangement had not yet appealed to them as being the best that could be made, that there might have to be a debate on a motion of that kind, and that it would better suit their convenience if the debate did not take place until Friday. So, instead of combining that with the motion I now put before the house, I would simply give notice of a

motion to be made on Friday with respect to procedure for next week and following days.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, as this motion is not in the usual form, I think it would be very helpful to hon. members if the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) would explain the effect of the motion, and what he suggests should be done tomorrow under that motion.

Mr. St. Laurent: The motion is not in the usual form, inasmuch as it does not extend to the whole of the time during which the address of His Excellency the Governor General and addresses in reply may be under debate in the house. But it does provide, in the usual form, that tomorrow and Friday the speech from the throne be considered. The procedure on adoption of the motion would be that the address would be moved and seconded tomorrow. Then I would assume that, in accordance with traditional practice, Your Honour would recognize first the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), that I should follow him, that he would then recognize the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell), and following the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar, the hon. member for—

Mr. Graydon: No; you did not do that before.

Mr. St. Laurent: —the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low). After those hon. members have been heard, then the debate would continue in such order as might be arranged by the Whips, in the usual manner.

I had intended at this time to move that afterwards, from Monday, January 31, until and including Friday, February 11, matters having to do with the entry of Newfoundland into confederation should have precedence over other matters. But I was told by some hon. members that that did not appeal to them as being the proper procedure, that there would be debate on a motion of that kind, and that it would be preferable not to have the debate which would be expected this afternoon in view of the fact that other engagements had been made. I am therefore giving notice that I will make that motion on Friday. The purpose of the motion will be that on and from January 31 until Friday, February 11, the matters dealing with the entry of Newfoundland shall have precedence. However I am not making that motion at the present time; I am putting a notice on the order paper.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, I do think that hon. members should recognize the effect of the motion in the form in which it is presented. In the form in which it is presented the debate on the speech from the throne will