

Resignation of Minister of Transport

I am of the opinion that it would not be desirable to alter our business for today. Whether the business for tomorrow should be altered is another matter to which I have given serious thought. In reviewing the request for adjournment of the house I have had difficulty in resolving the question of whether this matter should or might be raised in another form. It seems to me the matter of housing is in the circumstances a continuing problem but to that problem has been added another, the resignation of the Minister of the Crown who has been charged with the federal government's responsibility in the field of housing. The resignation of the minister is not necessarily in itself reason or ground for moving the adjournment of the house nor is the operation of the government's housing policy necessarily a matter of such urgent importance as to warrant a motion under Standing Order 26.

Having said that, however, when these two events are tied together it seems to the Chair there is a matter of urgency which may very well satisfy the provisions of Standing Order 26 in respect of the matter of urgency of debate. Having put aside any doubt in respect of the question of raising this matter as a matter of confidence in the government under Standing Order 58, I am inclined to allow the motion under the discretion vested in the Chair by citation (9) of Standing Order 26. I have said that I do not believe the business of the house for today should be disturbed, in view of the special order setting aside today for the consideration of government policy dealing with NATO. Any decision under Standing Order 26 would apply to tomorrow rather than today.

In view of the desirability of resolving certain procedural questions in relation to Bill C-150 I am directing that the matter be set down for consideration at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon provided the procedural matters relating to Bill C-150 have been disposed of earlier.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**HOUSING****INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF MINISTER**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question which arises out of the valedictory of the hon. member for Trinity this morning in which he said there is

[Mr. Speaker.]

still no indication as to when a housing policy will be decided upon by the cabinet. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is still the plan of the government to bring forward housing legislation based upon the task force recommendations prior to the summer recess in view of the response by the Minister of Transport in reply to a question I asked him last week, that it was still the intention of the government to bring down legislation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps before the Prime Minister replies to the question I should refer to a ruling I made some time ago involving the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands when there had been an agreement to debate a particular subject. That hon. member at that time attempted to ask questions and I suggested that the hon. member might wait until the debate took place in the house.

I would think that position should apply generally, although I realize we are dealing with a matter of some urgency. I should not like to set down a hard and fast ruling, but I hope hon. members will exercise some discretion and remember that we have just agreed to hold a special debate tomorrow afternoon.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the intentions of the government have not changed. We do intend to introduce new legislation at this session within a matter of a few weeks.

RESIGNATION OF MINISTER—HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS WITHIN FEDERAL INITIATIVE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the statement made by the recent Minister of Transport, in which he said the delay in making a decision regarding housing policy is the result of a theoretical concept of federalism on the part of the Prime Minister, which does not accept housing and urban affairs as being in this area of the federal initiative, will the Prime Minister make an early statement to reassure the house and the people of Canada that this government does regard housing, pollution and other urban problems as national problems and that he is willing to accept responsibility for federal initiative in these fields, of course always respecting areas of provincial jurisdiction?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this question by way of a statement of non-policy is not very helpful. Of course this involves the constitution, and this