

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, May 23, 1969

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

The house met at 11 a.m.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate have passed Bill S-36, an act to amend the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, to which the concurrence of this house is desired.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

#### AGRICULTURE

Ninth report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, in French and in English—Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean).

[Editor's note: The text of the foregoing report appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

#### EXPROPRIATION ACT

MEASURE ENCOMPASSING THE ACQUISITION AND ABANDONMENT OF LAND, COMPENSATION THEREFOR, AND OTHER MATTERS

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-200, respecting the expropriation of land.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

#### NATIONAL HOUSING ACT, 1954

MEASURE TO EXTEND FORGIVENESS FEATURE IN SEWAGE TREATMENT LOANS

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-201, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

29180—569½

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE—  
CANADIAN POSITION ON U.S. AND  
SOVIET DRAFT TREATIES

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, of which I gave his office notice. I would like to know what instructions are being given by the government of Canada to our representatives at the Geneva disarmament conference concerning the American draft treaty. Does Canada accept the American draft, or is the government of Canada attempting to obtain more rigorous control and inspection of continental sea bed areas?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for having given me notice of this question. I have informed myself as to the answer. Apparently the draft treaty was tabled only yesterday by the United States. I believe we had been given notice of it in advance; that is, we were shown the text one day in advance. We have had only two days to look at the draft treaty, and we have not had a cabinet meeting on it to consider the position we will take. I understand that the conference will recess today and be reconvened on July 3. By that time we shall have established our position and will be in a position to report on the matter.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, it follows from what the Prime Minister has said that our representatives have not as yet taken a position with regard to this question.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is right, Mr. Speaker. We did take a tentative position on the Soviet Draft treaty. The conference is now recessed to permit the members to examine both the American and Soviet draft treaties. It is normal that we will look at both treaties over the next few weeks and see whether we should support one or other of them or come up with a third alternative.