

Adjournment

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the special order made earlier this day, the sitting is suspended until the ringing of the bells.

At 5.25 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 6.49 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHRISTMAS ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: Order. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen).

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, before I come to the main point, may I first wish all members a Happy Christmas.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: I thank them for their service to the House. While the rest of you were enjoying yourselves with the Speaker, some of us were working. I am now suggesting that His Honour put the adjournment motion that was suggested earlier, with the expectation that it will be carried. The discussions that we have had among representatives of the parties lead us to recommend this motion to the House.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, as the opposition party in this parliament we are pleased to co-operate in this manner. I would not want to give any false impression that minority governments are working, but in spite of the difficulties I do wish everybody a Joyeux Noël.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, despite the way in which the official opposition works, we have entered into the Christmas spirit and we have reached agreement. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) has correctly stated that there is now an understanding on the basis of which we believe this motion can be passed. In doing so, we too are joining in wishing all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In particular, may I wish you, Mr. Speaker, and Madame Lamoureux, the very best.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, long before this last beating about the bush, we were decided not to sit next week, since we have long said that dodging the issue at the end of each session is useless and bothersome and

[Mr. Speaker.]

that we should put a stop to it some day. A reform of the parliamentary system is required in order that we may be more serious and better able to deal with the situation and that we may not be forced, at the end of each session, to talk of family spirit, Holiday spirit and parliamentary politics spirit.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to wish to all my colleagues in this House a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and as we say in Quebec, "le paradis à la fin de vos jours."

● (1850)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I believe the first matter to be dealt with is the motion by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), seconded by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell).

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council) moved:

That when the House adjourns on December 21, 1973, it shall stand adjourned to January 3, 1974, provided always that if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with Her Majesty's Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

That, in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Chairman of Committees shall act in his stead for the purpose of this order;

That fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of adjournment on the third day, that Bill C-245, an act to impose a charge on the export of crude oil from Canada, to impose an oil export tax under the Excise Tax Act and to allocate certain of the revenues derived from the oil export tax, is taken into consideration, all questions necessary for the disposal of the said bill at all remaining stages shall be forthwith put and decided without further debate or amendment;

That the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works be instructed to report Bill C-236, Energy Supplies Emergency Act, following two further days of consideration thereof;

That, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of adjournment on the third day that Bill C-236 is considered at the report stage, every question necessary for the disposal of the said bill at the report stage shall be forthwith put and decided without further debate;

That, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of adjournment on the first day that the motion for third reading of Bill C-236 is taken into consideration every question necessary for the disposal of the third reading of the said bill shall be forthwith put and decided without further debate or amendment;

And that, when the order is next called for consideration of Bill C-203, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, every question necessary for the disposal of the report stage and of the third reading of the said bill shall be forthwith put without further debate or amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: This House will therefore stand adjourned, in accordance with the terms of the motion which has just