

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member for Moose Jaw wishes to adjourn the debate. It is moved by the hon. member for Moose Jaw, seconded by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, that the debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the house that the debate be now adjourned?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, because of the fact that we are having royal assent and then proceeding with other business of eight o'clock, I believe there is a general dispensation—disposition—in the house not to proceed with private members' hour this evening. If Your Honour finds there is general agreement, perhaps this could be done on the understanding that all motions would preserve their place on the order paper and also that this hour would be saved for the house as a further private members' hour.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am sure I would rather agree to a general disposition than to a general dispensation.

Mr. Speaker: Is this the desire of the house?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be discussed at the time of adjournment this evening are as follows: The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin)—National Health and Welfare—inquiry as to possible participation of federal government in a campaign against alcoholism; the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter)—Fisheries—inquiry as to deficiency payments; the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan)—Management of Canada's Fishing Resources—continental shelf.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

The Budget—Mr. Benson

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

• (5:50 p.m.)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bill:

An act respecting the construction of a line of railway in the province of Alberta by Canadian National Railway Company from the vicinity of Windfall on the Windfall extension to the Sangudo subdivision of the Canadian National Railway in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 51 miles to the Bigstone property of Pan American Petroleum Corporation and of a connecting spur extending in a northerly direction for a distance of approximately 9 miles to the South Kaybob property of Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Company Limited and its associates.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance) moved:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour and a serious responsibility to present the first budget to this new twenty-eighth parliament of Canada. The government and its strong parliamentary majority have come into office with many new ideas and a desire to look at our problems with a fresh perspective. We have, however, many major commitments. These restrict our freedom of innovation and make it necessary for us to work out our new ideas over time.

I have much to report and to propose in this budget and therefore will not attempt a comprehensive review of our financial affairs and policies tonight. The budget white paper, tabled last Wednesday, provides material on our public accounts for 1967-68, and on the economic and financial conditions prevailing in Canada and elsewhere as of the time when it was prepared. I shall refer occasionally to this paper but I shall try not to weary the house with repetition of detail. In particular I do not propose to comment upon the accounts for 1967-68.