

*Inquiries of the Ministry***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN
"VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS"

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Again I note in today's *Votes and Proceedings* notice of a measure appearing in the name of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys which I do not think was mentioned by the Prime Minister when we discussed these things in the house some time ago. In replying to me the other day he said he had made one omission. This appears to be a second omission. May I ask if this is now all the legislation we will have between now and the end of the session?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I note the remarks of the hon. gentleman. In so far as this amendment to the Maritime Coal Production Assistance Act is concerned, it is absolutely necessary if what was undertaken earlier and brought to the attention of the house is to be carried out. It is one of those things which will not bring about a measure of controversial debate, as I understand it, and I am sure that the hon. gentleman, representing the official opposition, would be the last to desire that action in this regard should be neglected at this session. I take it that would be his attitude.

With regard to any further legislation, I have referred to the probabilities in connection with some legislation which might be necessary under the agricultural program. I am sure that in this regard, there being no serious controversial issues to be raised, the hon. gentleman, representing the opposition, would be the last to desire to do anything to prevent the introduction of agricultural legislation which would be of benefit to this country, and which must necessarily receive attention at this session if it is to be appropriately applied within the next few months. I share with him the desire of hon. members to have a completion of the program, but when a government is desirous of being of assistance in meeting the needs of Canadians as a whole, matters necessarily arise that have to be brought in at the last moment. I reiterate what I stated the other day, that I am hopeful that the program as set forth is final.

Mr. Chevrier: It is being added to continually.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will not be bound, however, to refuse to consider the introduction of measures which even at the last moment,

by reason of the circumstances arising between now and the conclusion of the session, might be considered necessary for the welfare of the people of Canada. I know my hon. friend, within those limitations, would certainly agree with the view I have expressed.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my friend the hon. member for Laurier, as the Prime Minister indicated, would be the last to object to, obstruct or delay legislation which in the words of the Prime Minister is for the welfare of the people of Canada. That, Mr. Speaker, was not the point he was trying to make. It was that in the interests of minimizing obstruction and delay we should know well in advance, especially in the closing days of the session, what legislation is to be introduced. We had been told the other day that all the legislation was on the order paper. I therefore ask the Prime Minister to keep this in mind, that if we want to get this legislation through quickly for the benefit of the people of Canada it is incumbent on the government, especially at this time in the session, to let us know what is coming up. At the present time there seems to be about these matters, as far as the Prime Minister's statements are concerned, what I might call a continuous finality.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I think the statement of the Prime Minister is most encouraging, that even after we have had a final résumé of the legislation that is forthcoming we shall have the opportunity of dealing with other very beneficial legislation. Since the Prime Minister has emphasized the agricultural legislation that is about to be introduced, I wonder if he could satisfy the curiosity of the house by saying whether this includes deficiency payments, and what in general is contained in the legislation. I am sure the Prime Minister will find that the C.C.F. group, as usual, will facilitate the passage in this house of all worth-while legislation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh. Obstructionists.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I like the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition. Everything should be done to minimize what he called obstruction. I certainly think that is a laudable purpose and a highly desirable end. Anything I can do to minimize obstruction from the other side will certainly be done, because there is none from this side.

Mr. Pickersgill: The Prime Minister should attend the house.

Mr. Benidickson: He has not had his loud-speaker on.