

*Business of the House*

Minister on federalism. In spite of those two very inauspicious beginnings I decided to take my seat, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the members for their kindness and to say that at this very critical stage in Canada's history, when we are shaping the future of the country, I am very happy to be a member of the house. I have had the privilege over the years of serving in this house and serving in a provincial legislature. I hope that something of the experience which I have gathered may be of some value as we face the critical days ahead.

● (2:20 p.m.)

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### STATEMENT AS TO LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE SUMMER ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement with regard to the business of the house for the balance of the session. I believe that the house may find useful some information that I have drawn together about the work remaining to be done between now and the beginning of the summer adjournment.

My proposal is that the house adjourn for Easter at the conclusion of the sitting on Wednesday, April 2 and sit again on Monday, April 14. I am proposing also that we should try to be ready to adjourn for the summer on Friday, June 27. On that basis, after yesterday, taking into account the two additional holidays prescribed by Standing Order 2, we now have 83 sitting days in which to complete our work.

Of those days a total of 18 are committed as allotted days for the business of supply with, I assume, an additional three days for the final supplementary estimates. I am reserving six days for a budget debate. Naturally, I cannot say whether the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) will want to initiate such a debate or, if he does, whether any budget bills will eventuate from his statement. This means that 27 days are committed. Any days that might be required for budget bills would be over and above that number. In other words, the maximum number of days that we can count on for the legislative business about which we now know is 56.

The House of Commons has before it, at some stage of the legislative process, a total

of 19 bills. In the other place there are four bills with which the House of Commons has not yet dealt. On the basis of the list put forward by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on September 12, and my best knowledge at this moment, I can foresee 21 additional bills. This means that to the 19 bills now before this house at various stages we should add a total of 25 bills not yet before this house. There is also the matter of a proposed resolution dealing with Canada's anthems.

The following is a list of the bills not yet before the house and I should indicate that no significance should be attached, one way or another, to the order of this list: Investment companies Bill, S-17; Criminal Code (Hate propaganda) amendment, Bill S-21; Canada Shipping Act amendment, Bill S-23; Oil and Gas Productions and Conservation, Bill S-29; Canadian Educational Broadcasting Agency bill; Income Tax Act amendment—from the October 22, 1968 budget; Dominion Coal Board dissolution bill; Yukon Minerals bill; Canada Corporations Act amendment; National Housing Act amendment; Satellite Communications Corporation bill; Export Development Corporation bill; Federal Co-operatives bill; Old Age Security Act amendment; Loan Companies Act amendment; Trust Companies Act amendment; Canada Development Corporation bill; Indian Claims bill; Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act amendment; Foreign Insurance Companies Act amendment; Expropriation Act amendment; Statute Law (Superannuation) Amendment Act amendment; Fisheries Improvement Loans Act amendment (No. 2); Expo Winding-up bill; Patent Act (fees) amendment.

We also hope to introduce an industrial incentives bill in respect of the department of my colleague, the minister of regional and economic expansion, a Canada water bill and a securities bill, but it would not be our intention that these should be passed during the course of this session.

This schedule means that we are confronted with about 45 items to fill our remaining 56 days for legislation. I have made available to the house leaders of parties opposite a list showing the bills passed, the bills in progress in this house and the work to come.

Let me conclude by saying two things. First, it is always possible that emergencies will require the government to come to the house with additional legislative proposals not now anticipated. Secondly, if we finish our work before June 27 I will be more than