

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

wrong way, the same sort of penalty would be involved.

We now have a better method of identification, and I suggest that we should adopt it. I do not believe that this provision in any way affects our democratic rights or deprives any of us of our individuality. In fact, I think it is a much better means of identification than has been available heretofore.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Chairman, would the minister answer a question supplementary to that just put to him? He was asked whether this provision will apply to recipients of the old age pension in the following year, and the minister's answer was, "I do not know." How, under a numbers system, are we going to settle this issue?

Mr. Sharp: If this provision were to be applied, it might be a very useful thing to do. But the fact is that I do not know—I am not the Minister of National Revenue—and am not aware whether there are any plans of this kind.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reply to the hon. member for Medicine Hat. I should like to assure the hon. member and the committee that this provision has nothing to do with the privacy of income tax returns.

The tax returns of the people of this country are kept separately, just as though they were kept on pieces of paper with names on them, rather than on tape. But it happens to be a little more modern to adopt this method, and in this House of Commons I think we should take advantage of modern techniques to save the taxpayers' money and improve the administration of this country. I believe that the attitude being displayed here by some hon. members is that this system is something that has occurred recently. I believe this argument is perhaps best answered by the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who has pointed out that we are all identified by a great many numbers in many files. I believe that for the government it would be of advantage to have these details clearly and accurately recorded.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Chairman, may I call it ten o'clock?

Mr. Knowles: Don't say ten o'clock; that is a number.

Mr. Aiken: It is an hour, to my way of thinking.

Progress reported.

PUBLIC SERVICE**EXTENSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF JOINT COMMITTEE**

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask permission to revert to motions for the purpose of extending the reference of the special joint committee on the public service of Canada to include the right to examine and report upon the matter of the pensions paid on account of the service of former members of the R.C.M.P. and of the armed forces.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. McIlraith: I move:

That the special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the public service of Canada be further empowered to inquire into and report upon the matter of the pensions paid on account of the service of former members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and of former members of the armed forces; and

That a message be sent to the Senate informing Their Honours of this resolution and requesting that house, if it concurs, to authorize the committee to inquire into and report upon this matter.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McIlraith: Tomorrow we propose to submit to the house for its consideration first, the third reading of the bill on immigration appeals, that is item 83 on the order paper, then we will continue the matter that was before the house today, item 119, followed by items 133, 135, 86 and 134.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—INTERVIEW WITH REPORTED COMMUNIST ON PROGRAM "AUJOURD'HUI"

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, on February 15, 1967 last, I put the following question to the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh):

Would the minister check with C.B.C. authorities in order to find out why the C.B.C. granted an interview last week to Mr. Vachon on the program "Aujourd'hui", during which the ex-policeman said that he had decided to join the Communist party and that, in the future, he would endeavour to convince our youth to share his views on Marxism?