

Tax Reform
AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TAX REFORM

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if there might be unanimous consent to revert to motions for the purpose of dealing with the proposed order with respect to the tax reform committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is there agreement to reverting to motions?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The house having reverted to the order for motions:

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned there have been discussions regarding the best procedure for dealing with the order of the house with respect to the establishment and terms of reference of the committee on tax reform. If the house is agreeable to the special order which I am now going to suggest, I suggest that my colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gray) will propose a motion and make a statement.

But before doing so I should like to ask for the unanimous consent of the house to the following terms which, I think, will be found generally agreeable: First, that the notice of motion required of my colleague be waived under the circumstances; second, that there should be one speaker representing each group, who would have the opportunity to speak on the matter; and third, that there be no amendments but that the question be put after each of these representatives has been heard. As I said, if there is general agreement perhaps that could be made a special order of the house.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it so agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is agreed, Mr. Speaker, but may I make the point that it is the result of consultation.

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).]

Mr. H. E. Gray (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Before beginning to move the motion may I ask for the indulgence of the house with reference to a related matter of order. Ordinarily, once I have moved the motion and made any remarks connected with it I would not be able to speak again. I was wondering if it might meet the satisfaction of the house if I begin by simply moving the motion and reserving any remarks on it until other hon. members have spoken, thus enabling me to answer questions or give explanations arising out of the remarks of the spokesmen for the other parties. I am making this suggestion in order to be helpful.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): May I speak on the point of order raised by the parliamentary secretary. The hon. gentleman opposite would not expect me to make a comment on such an important subject without knowing the government's intentions. If there are questions to be answered surely the house would find it appropriate to have the parliamentary secretary make his remarks on the motion now and deal with the questions later.

Mr. Gray: I move, seconded by the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen):

That the House of Commons do unite with the Senate in the appointment of a special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons, to be known as the special Joint Parliamentary Committee on Tax Reform, to consider the government's proposals for tax reform, with powers to report from time to time its opinions and observations thereon; to send for persons, papers and records; to sit during sittings and adjournments of the house; to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the committee;

That Standing Order 65(5) be suspended in relation to this special joint committee;

That 20 members of the House of Commons, to be designated at a later date, act on behalf of the house as members of the said committee, 11 of whom shall be required for a quorum;

That the presence of a quorum shall be required whenever a vote resolution or other decision is to be taken by the committee, provided that the committee by resolution may authorize the chairman to hold meetings to receive and authorize the printing of evidence when a quorum is not present;

That any member of either house who is not a member of the committee may, unless the committee otherwise orders, take part in the public proceedings of the committee, but may not vote or move any motion, nor shall such a member be part of any quorum; and

That the committee be authorized to retain expert, technical and secretarial assistance;

That a message be sent to the Senate to inform that house accordingly.