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DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETING

INFORMATION DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OTTAWA - CANADA

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Monday, November 7, 1949.

Commons To Lengthen Sittings: The House of Commons, aiming for prorogation by December 10 at the latest, is to be told this week that its sitting hours are to be prolonged to speed the handling of a large backlog of work, the Canadian Press reports.

The Government is understood to have indicated to its supporters and to opposition party heads that it figures on a December 10 prorogation, and it is reported to have told its caucus last week that morning sessions will begin November 14 to make sure the objective is reached.

At least three and possibly four major debates appear likely before prorogation....

Would Force Rail Economies: Ottawa, November 6 (CP) -- Federal action to force the major railways to effect economies by stepping up efficiency and eliminating wasteful duplication of services was urged by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in a brief to the Royal Commission on Transportation made public today.

The Federation, aiming at holding down freight rates through such economies, called for legislation that would compel the railways to demonstrate efficiency of operation before getting rate increases.

It also sought the immediate establishment of a federal tribunal to investigate all possible ways of reducing duplication of services and "wasteful competitive practices" between the railroads. The tribunal would report to Parliament annually.

Among other major recommendations of the Federation was one urging that the capital structure of the Canadian National Railways, which draws some \$46,000,000 a year from the railway in debt interest, should be revised to a reasonable basis....

Mr. McGregor's Resignation: On Friday, November 4, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Garson, tabled in the House of Commons correspondence between Mr. F.A. McGregor, who has resigned as Combines Investigation Act Commissioner, and himself. In his letter Mr. McGregor protests against the withholding of publication of a report which, he says, the Act requires shall be made public as soon as possible after its receipt. Closely related, he added, "are the differences of opinion on basic policy that have been revealed in our recent discussions relating to the flour investigation and report..."

The Minister replied that he could not agree that the criticism of Mr. McGregor's Flour Report by the Government related to policy. On the contrary, he added, such criticism related to facts. In an interview between the Minister, Mr. Donald Gordon, Mr. K.W. Taylor and Mr. McGregor, the Minister's letter notes, "it turned out that your version of certain of the most vital of these facts was diametrically opposed to that of Mr. Gordon." This confirmed the wisdom of withholding publication and prosecution, the Minister wrote.

The Canadian Press states that the report in question is to be tabled today.