

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, January 26, 1967

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Seventh report of standing committee on industry, research and energy development—Mr. Cashin.

Fourth report of standing committee on Indian affairs, human rights and citizenship and immigration—Mr. Klein.

[Note: Text of the foregoing reports appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

PUBLIC SERVICE

AMENDMENT OF VARIOUS ACTS RESPECTING SALARIES OF OFFICIALS

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (for the President of the Treasury Board) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Canada Grain Act, the Income Tax Act, the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act, the National Energy Board Act, the Railway Act, the Tariff Board Act, the Canada Elections Act, the Financial Administration Act, the Representation Commissioner Act, and the Appropriation Act No. 4, 1964, with respect to the salaries of certain public officials.

Motion agreed to.

JUDGES ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SALARIES, TRAVELLING EXPENSES, ETC.

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Judges Act to revise judicial salaries and certain provisions of the said act respecting the payment to judges of travelling allowances and other expenses; and to provide further for certain changes in connection with the administration of the act.

Motion agreed to.

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FUND FOR RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

AMENDMENT INCREASING AMOUNTS AVAILABLE UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Fund for Rural Economic Development Act to increase the limit on the aggregate of the amounts that may be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund and charged to the fund for rural economic development under agreements with the provinces from fifty million dollars to three hundred million dollars.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN CONFEDERATION

PROPOSED CONFERENCE TO BE CALLED BY ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker has the attention of the Prime Minister been drawn to the initiative of the government of Ontario in proceeding to convene a confederation conference, which we on this side of the house were ready to do four years ago and have asked for since? Under all the circumstances, is the dominion government going to co-operate in this regard, or is it going to take the lead itself and bring about the convening of such a conference in this year?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have read the speech from the throne in the Ontario house in which this suggestion was made by the premier of the province. I understand that this proposed conference is not with respect to the amendment of the constitution or indeed to find ways to amend the constitution, but is a conference that might be devoted to a discussion of confederation and its problems, and that sort of thing. Naturally, Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting and important proposal. I have not received any communication on it from the Prime Minister of Ontario. Perhaps it is the kind of thing that should be put on the