

Railway Act

The 14 days that were referred to by the Prime Minister were six days spent on supplementary estimates No. 2 and now eight days spent on supplementary estimates No. 3, and of the latter we have so far carried in committee of supply only 22, a minority of them, and there are still many items to be carried.

I have indicated that there will be more estimates to be brought down, the final supplementary estimates for the year. What the Prime Minister referred to as estimates requiring to be passed by the end of the month are all those supplementary estimates including those which I hope to introduce a little later.

And as for the announcement made by my colleague the leader of the house last Friday, in all fairness the house well knows that the only reason the Minister of Veterans Affairs announced on that occasion that we would be taking legislation today instead of proceeding with the supplementary estimates is that he had simply come to the conclusion that it was hopeless to expect to get any of these estimates passed, and he was hopeful, then, that with a change—

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. member interrupts me when I am seeking to contribute to good will in the chamber.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is this—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry, but we have not disposed of the first question of privilege yet, and I cannot entertain a second one until this is disposed of.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I had nearly finished, Mr. Speaker. I hope the hon. member for Laurier realizes that I was speaking reasonably and trying to contribute to calm and good will in the house.

Mr. Benidickson: What a change.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The announcement made on Friday by my colleague the leader of the house did not subtract anything whatsoever from the urgency which the government attaches to these estimates and the urgency of the plea I made to the whole house in relation to the passage of those estimates when I made that plea last Thursday. It was simply that we had come to the point where we thought it was apparent we could not get any of the estimates passed, and my colleague thought that with a change of business for today there perhaps would be some

sense of order and some sense of desire re-established to proceed with the business of the house.

This is extremely urgent business, and it is becoming more and more urgent with the passage of each day. I simply renew the appeal I made to all parties in the house last Thursday.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, I think we would be more impressed by what has been said by the Minister of Finance if he had taken some cognizance of the offer made by my friend the hon. member for Laurier, which will be found on page 1900 of *Hansard* of Friday, that if the minister would indicate in detail what those urgent items were the opposition would be prepared to deal with them immediately and facilitate an appropriation bill which would meet the immediate needs of the government without restricting the rights of the opposition, and that courteous offer has not even been replied to by the government.

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed with the business of the order paper, and when we reach the item "motions", if there is anything further to be said about the business of the house we will renew the discussion then.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1961-62

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting supplementary estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1962, was presented by Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house, and referred to the committee of supply.

RAILWAY ACT

REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF SUBMISSION
RESPECTING SECTION 182

On the order: Government notices of motion:

March 15—The Minister of Transport—The following proposed motion:—

That the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines be empowered to examine and inquire into a submission which has been addressed to the chairman of the committee by the national legislative committee, International Railway Brotherhoods, concerning the provisions of section 182 of the Railway Act and suggesting changes in the said section which would provide for the payment of compensation to employees affected by line abandonments; or by the closing or removal of any station or divisional point; or by the changing of operating centres or terminal points.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of standing order 21 this government notice of motion stands transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the house.