

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 10, 1957

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADJOURNMENT OVER HOLIDAY SEASON

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. St. Laurent) asked me what the general plans were with regard to the holiday adjournment. Naturally the desire of the government was to expedite to the limit the business of the house with a view to completion before Christmas, and that was made apparent on a number of occasions. I am not going to enter into the reasons why that now cannot reasonably be anticipated or expected.

Because of that fact, and in order to enable hon. members to make their arrangements accordingly, it is my intention to move that at the conclusion of the day on December 21, at six p.m., the house be adjourned and that it return on Friday, the 3rd day of January, at eleven a.m.

There may be some question raised as to the reason we should not have that entire week, but the position of affairs is such that it will be necessary to move for further interim supply at that time, and any further extension would place the financial situation in a position that is not to be desired. I thought the house should have the information respecting the intention of the government at the earliest possible date, so all members would be able to spend Christmas and New Year's at home.

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, do I understand that the Prime Minister is having the notice that appeared in *Votes and Proceedings* of last night corrected?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I should have explained that. It was originally intended to have the house recalled on January 2, but it was brought to my attention that many hon. members desire to have their New Year's day free for their celebrations. I am speaking of my hon. friends from the province of Quebec in particular, although the practice is carried into western Canada, who set New Year's day aside above many others, and for that reason the alteration is to be made.

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, may I have the privilege of asking the Prime Minister a question arising out of his statement. What consideration has been given to members from British Columbia who, leaving on the day suggested for adjournment, can only get home by Christmas day? Could not the date be advanced in view of the position of those members? If not, will the government make provision that members who live so far away can fly home and have their expenses covered by a vote of the house?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I realized that argument would be advanced and should be met. Provision will be made in a vote to be placed before parliament to cover all proper transportation costs.

### AGRICULTURE

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE PRICE SPREADS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I wish at this time to make an announcement in regard to the royal commission on price spreads. With leave of the house I will table the order in council after reading from the appropriate sections.

The chairman will be Dr. Andrew Stewart of Edmonton, president of the University of Alberta, formerly lecturer in agricultural economics at the University of Manitoba and dean of business affairs at the University of Alberta. The other members of the commission will be Mrs. W. R. Walton Jr., of Toronto, a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Association of Consumers since its inception in 1947; Dr. W. M. Drummond of Bristol, Quebec, and Guelph, Ontario, head of the department of agricultural economics of the Ontario Agricultural College; Mr. Howard MacKichan of Halifax, Mr. Romeo Martin of Montreal, Mr. Bernard Couvrette of Montreal and Mr. Cleve Kidd of Toronto.

The commission is appointed under part I of the Inquiries Act, their powers being to inquire into the extent and the causes of the spread between the prices received by producers of food products of agricultural and fisheries origin and the prices paid by consumers therefor; to determine whether or not such price spreads in general or in particular cases are fair and reasonable or are