

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, September 22, 1949

The house met at three o'clock.

NATIONAL REVENUE

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT—PETROLEUM AND PULPWOOD REGULATIONS

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): I wish to table the report of the Department of National Revenue for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1949.

So far as the export petroleum and pulpwood regulations are concerned, none having been promulgated since the last return was made, no report will be made with regard to this item. Likewise, no report will be made in connection with the following statutes, since no orders or regulations have been made pursuant to the authority vested in me thereunder: Canada-New Zealand income tax agreement; Canada-United States income tax agreement; Canada-United Kingdom Succession Duty Agreement Act, and the Canada-United States Tax Convention Act, 1944.

PARLIAMENT HILL

PARKING SPACE FOR MEMBERS' CARS— STATEMENT OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Langlois) brought to my attention the inadequacy of the facilities for parking automobiles in the immediate vicinity of this building, particularly automobiles belonging to members of parliament. Immediately after the house rose last night I was in consultation with the Sergeant-at-Arms; and I am pleased to inform the house that already, in conjunction with the Department of Public Works, he has arranged for some additional space for members' cars to the right of the space occupied by the cabinet ministers.

I might also point out to hon. members that some time ago the Sergeant-at-Arms sent a questionnaire to members to ascertain who had automobiles in Ottawa. At the present time he has received notice from fifty-five members only that they have automobiles. It is impossible for him to know just what space should be allotted to members until he knows how many have cars here.

Hon. members will probably be interested to know that the parking area in the vicinity of the building has been allotted as follows:

There are eighteen spaces for ministers of the crown and the leader of the opposition, forty-two spaces for members of parliament, fourteen spaces for senior officials, and seventeen spaces for House of Commons employees.

The hon. member for Gaspé has handed to me the notice which he received with respect to the parking of his automobile. I find that it is not a summons, and that it was not served on him personally but was a notice that was put on his car informing him that the owner—who in this case happened to be a member of parliament—had parked his car for a longer period than is permitted in a space reserved for officials. There is no information on the card to the effect that a penalty will be imposed, and I can assure the hon. member that none will be.

I am sure that all hon. members realize the difficulty that the Sergeant-at-Arms has in providing space for the members. Some system has to be devised so that the limited space may be allotted fairly amongst the ministers, the members and the officials of the house. All I can add is a request to all hon. members that they try to conform to whatever system may be devised.

FREIGHT RATES

JUDGMENT OF TRANSPORT BOARD—QUESTION AS TO DELAYING ACTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): May I direct a question to the Minister of Transport? In view of the judgment of the board of transport commissioners, issued this morning, and the serious implication of a further increase in freight rates, will the government delay any action on recommendations made by the commissioners until the house has been given an opportunity to discuss the matter, and interested provinces have had an opportunity of placing their views before the government if they so desire?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): The part of the question which seeks information with reference to the recommendations made by the commissioners should be answered in this way. This is a judgment of a court of record, and not a recommendation made to the government.

With reference to the next part of the question, as a rule it is not the custom of the