Time Allocation

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

TABLING OF ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTING NEW CHAIRMAN

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like to lay upon the Table two copies, one in French and one in English, of the order in council naming the new chairman to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission in the distinguished person of Mr. John Meisel, currently professor of political science at Queen's University.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE OF FUTURE DEFENCE CO-OPERATION WITH UNITED STATES

On the order: Government notices of motions:

December 5, 1979-the Minister of National Defence:

That the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be empowered to hear evidence and consider Canadian policy with respect to future defence co-operation with the United States in the North American region with particular reference to air defence and related arrangements embodied in and flowing from the North American Air Defence agreement, and that they report their view thereon no later than the end of March, 1980.

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 later this day or at the next sitting of the House.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STAGE OF BILL C-20

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. McGrath):

That in relation to Bill C-20, an act to amend the Income Tax Act to provide a tax credit in respect of mortgage interest and home owner property tax, one sitting day shall be allotted to the further consideration in Committee of the Whole stage of the bill; and

That, at fifteen minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on that day, any proceeding before the committee shall be interrupted, if required, for the purpose of this order and, in turn, every question then necessary in order to dispose of the Committee of the Whole stage of the bill shall be put forthwith and successively, without further debate or amendment.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Baker), seconded by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. McGrath). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Lachance.]

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, members were talking a few moments ago about the manipulation of parliamentary time. If I had any qualms or any worries as a parliamentarian about bringing forward a motion of this nature to close off debate, these qualms and worries disappeared a few moments ago when I watched a long litany of motions and other matters being brought forward that bore no relevance to the business of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): All these matters of privilege, specious as were all of them, with one exception, were rejected by Mr. Speaker. I think it is quite important that the public of Canada understand just what happened today in this House of Commons. I think it is important as well that members of the House of Commons on both sides of the House, but today particularly on the other side of the House, realize that the people of Canada watch what happens and they register disgust with what they see and will with what they saw today.

At the outset I had some trepidation with respect to moving this motion because I did not want to move a motion to allocate the time of the debate—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: That will not wash, Walter.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): —on this bill which would give some advantage to property owners in Canada with respect to a property tax credit and to those who would like to be home owners in Canada. This is a popular measure with the people of Canada and I think it is high time the House of Commons dealt with it. That is the reason I moved this motion today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): There can be no doubt that the people of Canada want the property tax credit bill passed before Christmas so that they can take advantage of this measure in their taxes when they file their income tax this spring.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): I think it has become abundantly clear that the Liberal party wants it as well. I ask all members of the House, through you, sir, to recall that it was the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Phillips) who sent out a questionnaire in his riding. That is the fellow who got more publicity by withdrawing from the leadership contest than anybody will ever get from entering it. In any event, he sent out the questionnaire and when it came back it showed that over 60 per cent of his people wanted this kind of bill which this government intends to give to the people of Canada. That is a riding with a great proportion of renters.