

sort, whether or not they technically amount to a question of privilege, pending such a decision it has always been the practice of the House, certainly whenever possible, to give an opportunity to the hon. members involved to expose their thinking and to make whatever explanations may be warranted in the circumstances.

Certainly, the Chair would be very reluctant to try to make a final decision on any of the three questions unless and until the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway has either had an opportunity to make an intervention or declines to do so. Accordingly, in the circumstances it would seem the best course for the moment would be for the Chair to reserve any decision, at least until that event takes place, and then after such intervention, if it does take place, further reservation of the matter may be warranted.

I conclude by saying that I think hon. members understand that it is not the desire of the Chair to in any way encourage either a relaxation of the protection of the privileges of any member or to downgrade the quality of respect which is owed by one member of the House to all other members. The practice of this House, in taking most seriously any imputation of motives to any of the members of the House in the conduct of their duties, is one which has been clearly followed in the past. In the eyes of the House an imputation of motives is clearly reprehensible. Whether or not it has constituted privilege, it certainly has been a reprehensible practice, and it is certainly not the desire of the Chair at this time to relax the vigil that the House has always maintained in that regard. However, it might be appropriate to hear from the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway before going any further.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order which arises from an answer which the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) gave this afternoon to my question regarding casual and part-time workers in the federal civil service. I am quite sure the minister did not mean intentionally to mislead the House, but he indicated that his announced austerity with respect to growth in the federal service of 1.5 per cent in man-hours involves all workers, including part-time and casual workers.

I spoke with officials in the minister's department prior to asking the question and I was assured by them that the 1.5 per cent growth in the federal civil service included only permanent and term employees, not those who are under contract or who are casual workers. I thought I ought to bring that to the attention of the House in the hope that the minister may be reading this before tomorrow and he may be able to clarify it within his department and to this House.

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TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Thirteenth report of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications—Mr. Campbell.

[Translation]

Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I should

Electoral Boundaries

like to table, in both official languages, a statement made by the hon. Minister of Finance at the federal-provincial conference of ministers of finance on federal-provincial fiscal arrangements.

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[English]

PROXY VOTING ACT (AIRMEN)

MEASURE TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS IN CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-431, to amend the Canada Elections Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend to those employees of commercial aircraft, mainline carriers, regional carriers and any other registered aircraft carriers the privileges which are extended to certain other categories during election time with respect to proxy voting. I commend the bill to hon. members of the House.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

MOTION RESPECTING COMPLETION OF DEBATE

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the notice of motion I gave yesterday, I should now like to move the motion under Standing Order 75C.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House knows the terms of the motion, and the House is aware that pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 75C in respect of which the notice was given yesterday, a debate of to hours' duration may begin. There remain only any other motions which might be called pursuant to motions today and questions on the order paper. I wonder if hon. members might agree that it would be in order, before entering into such debate, simply to dispose of questions on the order paper and any other motions, if there are any, in order to complete routine proceedings before putting this motion. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: We agree, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, hopefully, I will have the agreement of the House to approve a motion which appears under notices of motions at page 13 of today's order paper as follows:

That, on Monday, April 5, 1976, the House shall continue to sit between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.;

That, on Tuesday, April 6, 1976, the House shall not adjourn until the completion of the business provided for in this order;