

that into the backs of their minds so that we can do it following the motion that stands in the name of the Minister of State.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Minister without Portfolio.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Minister without Portfolio. I was following the Speaker's latest pronouncement.

● (1610)

We have had some unexpected developments since the House opened this afternoon which have changed the character of the discussion and the length of our proceedings to the point where it may not be possible to do justice to the motion standing in the name of the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Guay), or do justice to at least the commencement of the debate on the introduction of television and broadcasting into the House of Commons.

Following consultations it is agreeable to me, upon passing this adjournment motion without debate, if we then recessed until the call of the Chair for Royal Assent. We would not proceed with the debate on the introduction of television or on the adjournment motion, because in the circumstances one or the other would be bound to suffer, so we want to let them suffer equally.

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have tucked in the back of my mind the question of the order of reference referred to by my colleague, the government House leader, and the other matter raised by him. I should like to say that we are prepared to concur.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Spirit, in the same vein—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, first may I say that we too will agree to the motion which has been suggested regarding the giving of a term of reference to one of the standing committees. As for the immediate suggestion by the President of the Privy Council, I join with the House leader for the official opposition in saying it makes good sense. Things have happened today that we did not anticipate. There is not enough time left to do justice either to the adjournment motion, when we could point out all the sins of the government and so on, or to the motion to bring television into the House. I think it makes good sense for us to rise at this point and come back when you learn, Mr. Speaker, that the time has come for us to go to the other place for Royal Assent.

While I am on my feet, if this all goes through and we come back at a quarter to six for a trip to the other place for Royal Assent, there may not be any opportunity for anyone to say anything. Therefore may I have the honour and the privilege to be the first one to say it, Merry Christmas, Mr. Speaker, and Merry Christmas to all.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### *International Development*

[Translation]

**Mr. Charles-Eugène Dionne (Kamouraska):** Mr. Speaker, I think my colleagues would not object to my adding that we agree to the suggestion that we adjourn immediately.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** May I simply say to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, before seeing the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) again that I remain Mr. Speaker while I am in this Chamber. I only become "Mr. Spirit" when we move across the hall to Room 16.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, again on a point of order, could I get consent to put the motion giving a reference to the standing committee on External Affairs and National Defence?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There may appear to be two or three questions before the House at the same time. In fact I think there are not. The question that has been put by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Guay) is before the House, and in its terms it says "when the House adjourns on this day". We are still under motions at the present time. Therefore, to be orderly, I would ask the House to address itself to that motion. That leaves it open for us, having completed all our other business, to call the other motion, after which we might adjourn, for the adjournment motion by its very terms would prevail. The House has heard the terms of the motion relating to the adjournment of the House in the name of the hon. Minister without Portfolio, seconded by Mr. Buchanan. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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### EXTERNAL AID

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT—REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council)** moved:

That the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be empowered to examine and report upon the full range of policies of Canada in the field of international development with particular reference to economic relations between developed and developing countries.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the motion. Does it in fact give its consent to the introduction of the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.