

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, the one assurance we want from the Prime Minister is that the government is not getting cold feet about this legislation.

Mr. Pearson: No, we are feeling pretty warm about this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles: So are we.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, do we have the agreement of the house on the two matters I raised, one regarding the five o'clock private members' hour and the other in respect of proceedings with the legislation on the Judges Act and the Combines Investigation Act, without prejudicing any rights under standing order 61?

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested that we adjourn today until February 16. It is my belief that to do so would mean that we will again not get a summer vacation next year unless we have an election. I am not running this government, but I am one of those who is insistent that we should strive toward arranging the business of this house so that we can have a holiday in July and August. It has been my opinion since I came to this house that we were supposed to have a vacation in July and August, and if we now propose to do something which will not work toward that end I cannot give unanimous consent. Surely we are all adult enough that we can arrange our business in such a way that we have a summer holiday. When the government asks for co-operation it must be prepared to give some assurance that it will co-operate in working toward this goal, which I am sure is desirable to every member of this house. This long holiday we are going to get in the wintertime means we cannot possibly have a summer vacation next year when it would be much more advantageous to our families than a winter vacation. So far as I am concerned, the government is either going to have to give some assurance in this regard or I will not be willing to consent to giving up private members' hour.

Mr. McIlraith: I hasten to assure the hon. member in this regard because one of the main reasons for choosing this date was in order to permit the government to have its legislation and the estimates ready for submission to the house when the house opens. If the hon. member was listening to my remarks this morning when we were discussing the matter of concurrence in a report concerning the standing orders and rules

of the house he will have noted the reference to one item at least which I hope will make it possible for us, come next session, to have the kind of adjournment in the summer season that all of us wish, those on the government side equally with the hon. member.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if that is also his opinion? He has some say in this matter. I certainly would not be opposed to something unusual happening, but is it his opinion also that the fact that we have had a winter vacation will not be used to say that we have to spend the next 10 months in Ottawa on government business?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I hasten to assure my hon. friend that I share his opinion and that expressed by the house leader entirely with regard to this matter and I hope that next summer we will indeed have the kind of vacation which he has mentioned.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the adjournment of private members' business at five o'clock, I understand that the bill most likely to be called and with which I am ready to proceed is that under order No. 3 under public bills, an act to amend the Immigration Act, racial discrimination. I think it is a very important matter of legislation, but if the government will give consideration to making this amendment at some stage or other I will be very happy not to press it at five o'clock.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, we will give it consideration.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted to say a word since the Solicitor General is not here, I spoke to the hon. member for Port Arthur about his bill which would have come up in the ordinary course and the Solicitor General told me that he would give an assurance to the house that the priorities of the bills as they now stood would, at the request of the government, remain as they are. I do not think the hon. gentleman would expect the government to make a decision like that without being able to consider the matter but I am sure it is a matter that would be considered.

Mr. Brewin: I did not expect the government to give their approval now. What I did say was that if we are going to have an adjournment and if the bill in principle commends itself so much to reasonable people I