

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, the other place will be a little while considering the bills we have just passed for the appropriation of certain sums of money, and we have one item left to consider, that having to do with the international atomic energy convention. If it should be the desire of the house to deal with it we could continue now or if that is not possible we could continue at eight o'clock until such time as we have word from the other place that they have passed the appropriation bills.

Mr. Green: I would suggest that we take it at eight o'clock.

An hon. Member: Go ahead.

Mr. Harkness: It is two minutes to six now.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that I do now leave the chair and that the house resume its activities at eight o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa,
April 12, 1957

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Patrick Kerwin, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, April 12, 1957, at nine p.m., for the purpose of proroguing the fifth session of the twenty-second parliament.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,
J. F. Delaute,
Secretary to the Governor General
(Administrative)

ATOMIC ENERGY

APPROVAL OF STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, April 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson:

That it is expedient that the houses of parliament approve the statute of the international atomic energy agency signed by Canada at New York on October 26, 1956, and that this house do approve the same.

Mr. Knowles: I might say, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for Nanaimo said what he wished to say on this motion when he spoke this afternoon in committee of supply.

Atomic Energy

Mr. R. W. Mitchell (London): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to occupy the time of the house at this significant time, but I do wish to say one or two things about this matter. They are points which concern me because I feel these matters should have been fully disclosed, and could well have been dealt with by a committee of this house. What I have to say is largely speculation.

As a whole I agree, and I am sure all of us agree, with the body of this motion. It is a fact, however, that many of us are groping in the dark. There are things we should know and upon which we should have been informed. Those things could have been very properly brought to our attention during the sittings of a committee of this house. One thing that concerns me has to do with ratification. I must admit that I shall have to ask my genial friend, the minister who is piloting this measure, some questions. Those questions could more properly have been asked in a committee of this house.

The one point which concerns me most has to do with ratification and when the instrument of ratification is going to be delivered. At the moment it is my understanding, and I ask the minister to correct me if I am wrong, that the only countries which have delivered instruments of ratification are the U.S.S.R., Egypt and Guatemala. This leads me to think that if the Canadian instrument of ratification is delivered at an untimely or early date we might find ourselves associated entirely with powers with whom we do not see eye to eye in so far as world affairs are concerned. I would hope that the minister could assure us that this instrument would not be deposited at a time which manifestly could embarrass Canada in its associations.

I think we all agree that the purpose of this measure is a broadly humanitarian one. We all hope that at some time this matter can be resolved amongst all the nations of the world. But at the moment we have certain ideas on the subject and other nations have other ideas. I should like to ask the minister also what effect this will have on our own atomic energy program. What effect will this have on our sales of uranium? Is this something to which we can look forward as a means of increasing our trade abroad or is this something which will hinder our trade and the limits within which we made trade?

I have no further comments to make. I do not wish to prolong the argument but I am simply restating what I have said and what others who have spoken ahead of me have said, that this was singularly a subject which could well have been discussed in detail by a committee of this house.