

for tomorrow and probably Monday. We will announce further business next week.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest to the government house leader that instead of taking the first item that he listed, having to do with the post office, it would be more expeditious to consider the second and third items first, and then move into the post office resolution?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is agreeable to us. I gather that hon. members feel they can deal with these items relatively quickly. We will agree to that, and will then continue with the post office resolution.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, can the house leader say when we will return to committee of the whole stage on the capital punishment bill?

Mr. MacEachen: I am not certain when we will return to the committee stage of the capital punishment bill,—perhaps Monday or Tuesday.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

POLLUTION—FEDERAL REPRESENTATION AT PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

Mr. H. E. Gray (Essex West): Mr. Speaker, on November 16 I asked this question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. MacEachen):

Have federal officials been invited to attend the provincial conference on pollution which will be convened by the government of Ontario between December 3 and December 5 in Toronto?

The minister replied:

Mr. Speaker, there is to be a meeting held in Toronto as a sequel to an earlier meeting in Montreal of the conference of resource ministers.

He concluded:

Federal officials have not been invited to attend.

On the following day, November 17, I therefore asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare this question:

Yesterday, in answer to a question of mine, he informed the house that federal officials had not been invited by the Ontario provincial government to attend the conference on pollution which is to be held between December 3 and December 5 in Toronto. In view of the urgent need to continue active co-operation between these two levels

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

of government, would he advise the province of Ontario of the availability of his officials to work with the provincial officials on this matter?

According to a report which appeared in the *Windsor Star* on November 9, the province of Ontario is convening a conference on the date I have mentioned covering air, water and soil pollution. It is being organized by its provincial advisory committee on pollution control which is made up of deputy ministers of various Ontario provincial departments which deal with individual aspects of pollution.

The jurisdiction over pollution problems is divided between the federal and provincial levels. As I have said, to tackle these pollution problems successfully there must be co-operative action between these two levels of government.

When I asked these questions it seemed to me, and it seems to me now, that the Ontario government should have recognized immediately that for the conference to be truly effective the participation of experts from the federal government would be necessary. After all, there are matters linked with these problems of pollution which cannot possibly be discussed much less dealt with effectively without the participation and the co-operation of officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare and of our Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. For example there are problems of trans-boundary air pollution which is of great concern to my own community in Windsor. There are matters involving the development of national standards for testing the degree of pollution in the air and in the water. In fact at present, as the Minister of National Health and Welfare pointed out in the house only a few days ago, for the first time we are developing and carrying out a national program of air sampling.

There are questions as to whether further tax incentives under federal, and under provincial statutes as well, would encourage industry to accelerate its work to eliminate air and water pollution caused by its activities. There are also questions as to whether the time has now come for the federal criminal law to be amended to provide new sanctions against pollution of air and water by industry and by individuals as well. The Minister of National Health and Welfare pointed out in the house recently that there is in his department an environmental health centre devoted to working on solutions to air pollution problems—in fact to identifying