

Motions

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether a compromise could be reached respecting the motion in the name of the President of the Privy Council. I think that it is the will of the House that we proceed with private members' hour. We would put the hon. member's motion, but before that have an agreement that perhaps by 4.15 p.m. these proceedings be terminated. At 4.15 p.m. we would then proceed with the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk). Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: If this is agreed, we will put the motion now.

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

That when the House adjourns on December 21, 1973, it shall stand adjourned to January 3, 1974, provided always that if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with Her Majesty's Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time;

That, in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Chairman of committees shall act in his stead for the purpose of this

That fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of adjournment on the third day that Bill C-245, an act to impose a charge on the export of crude oil from Canada, to impose an oil export tax under the Excise Tax Act and to allocate certain of the revenues derived from the oil export tax, is taken into consideration, all questions necessary for the disposal of the said bill at all remaining stages shall be forthwith put and decided without further debate or amendment;

That the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works be instructed to report Bill C-236, Energy Supplies Emergency Act, following two further days of consideration thereof;

That, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of adjournment on the third day that Bill C-236 is considered at the report stage, every question necessary for the disposal of the said bill at the report stage shall be forthwith put and decided without further debate;

That, at fifteen minutes before the ordinary hour of adjournment on the first day that the motion for third reading of Bill C-236 is taken into consideration every question necessary for the disposal of the third reading of the said bill shall be forthwith put and decided without further debate or amendment;

And that, when the order is next called for consideration of Bill C-203, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Income Tax Act in respect of election expenses, every question necessary for the disposal of the report stage and of the third reading of the said bill shall be forthwith put without further debate or amendment.

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

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, we took part in these negotiations and everything seems to be in order. However, as everybody in the House knows, we had serious objections to Bill C-236. There has been some agreement reached in committee on the bill, and I think it would be helpful to have on the record now the thoughts of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) on that agreement.

[Mr. Bell.]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be a little difficult to put that agreement on the record because 25 or 30 amendments were discussed in some detail. If the House really wants me to do so I will take them seriatim through the amendments. Perhaps the hon. member would clarify what he wants me to do. I can be as full or as limited as he desires.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I would not want the minister to clarify them all—we will have a few minutes in 1974—but I should like him to clarify the understanding with regard to clause 11. The others are all right. I think we should have an understanding of the position agreed to on that clause because the agreement limiting debate on Bill C-236 is founded on the understanding which the minister and I reached in this respect.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the House that clause 11 provides for the declaration of an emergency. If the House is sitting seven days after an emergency has been declared, or seven days after the House recommences if the House was not sitting at the time, a notice of motion to debate an order to approve the declaration of an emergency would be set down. Thereafter there would be an opportunity for the House to debate the motion for four sitting days, and at a quarter to ten on the fourth day the question would be put. If the motion is carried, then the allocation program is put into effect in accordance with the statute. If the motion is not carried, then of course the declaration and the mandatory allocation program would cease to be in force and effect. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. Baldwin: I think that is it, basically. We have some ironing out of commas and semi-colons and dashes, but I think that is basically the arrangement. I should like to lay down one more condition in so far as it is possible to do so. On the days that will be set aside for debate on Bill C-236, will the government House leader give his undertaking that the government will not restrict the full use of those days for this debate? There are some ways in which the government can introduce other measures. We are talking about full days of debate when Bill C-236 would be considered by this House.

● (1600)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a word or two about the motion which the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) has moved. It represents points on which the representatives of the parties have agreed. I think hon. members generally should know that not everyone is completely happy with the motion. Everyone engaged in a give-and-take exercise and the terms of the motion represent the compromise which we reached. I think there will be general satisfaction over the result, as we will not be spending Christmas Eve here on the floor of the House of Commons.

The only other point I wish to make is that since the passing of this motion is based upon the assumption that consideration of the report stage of Bill C-203 will be completed this afternoon, and as we have provided for no debate taking place on third reading, I hope that the 4.15 p.m. order will not be pressed too severely because one or