

Coal Production Assistance Act

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I did not hear what the minister just said, but in view of what the Prime Minister said yesterday—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Order. The Speaker is in the chair.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Churchill (for the Minister of Finance), moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-87, to provide for the establishment of a national economic development board.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time? Next sitting of the house; agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I was just observing before you took the chair that we had a lecture yesterday from the Prime Minister indicating that the government had a program all ready. We have now finished this business. There should not be any delay, and we would ask the leader of the house to present the next item of legislation without any delay at all. It is obvious that the minister is embarrassed and that there is no legislation ready for us to consider.

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): We have been put in a rather humiliating position as the result of the action of the government.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) is just trying to make a mockery of parliament again, as he has done on so many occasions. He could not contain himself—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is right.

Mr. Churchill:—for Your Honour to put the motion, and so on, and he was jumping to his feet.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is right.

Mr. Churchill: We have 23 items of business on the order paper and I am very grateful to the house for passing this resolution now, because people who wish to speak on second reading will get full opportunity tomorrow to do so. In the 15 minutes remaining to us this afternoon I think we might continue with the second reading of Bill No. C-83, respecting industrial change and manpower adjustment.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, there was no notice whatever given of this measure last night. The government claims it is a very important measure, and I suggest that some of the relatively unimportant things on the order paper be taken. I would suggest, for example, that the measure respecting the Newfoundland savings bank be taken. Since the Minister of Finance is not here, I would be very glad to do it on his behalf.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: If the minister will call that item, I will be very glad to see that it is explained. I know exactly what it is about.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance is engaged in a very important meeting.

Mr. Pickersgill: Nothing more important than parliament.

Mr. Churchill: I am quite prepared to take some of these smaller items which I called a week ago—

Mr. Pickersgill: We would not object to the third reading of the measure respecting the Food and Drugs Act.

Mr. Churchill:—but I would point out that the fact an item was not called the day before does not mean it cannot be called now. It is within the power of the house—

Mr. Pickersgill: We would be quite happy to go ahead with item No. 2 on the order paper, the Customs Tariff.

Mr. Churchill:—to call the items in the order in which it chooses to call them. I have suggested one. If that one is not suitable, we could call No. 10, in the name of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, which is the second reading of Bill No. C-64, to amend the Coal Production Assistance Act.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is he here?

COAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE ACT

ADJUSTMENT OF RATE AND TERMS OF REPAYMENT

Hon. Paul Martineau (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-64, to amend the Coal Production Assistance Act.

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

Mr. Pickersgill: Surely the minister has something to say about this, or his coach?

Mr. Martineau: Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes certain amendments to the existing Coal Production Assistance Act. Before going