

Business of the House

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, could the minister give us a general idea of the order in which these estimates will be called? What will be the first department and the second one?

Mr. McIlraith: If this is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, we would call finance, trade and commerce, industry, agriculture and then mines and technical surveys. I suggest that we forgo the private members' hour today and tomorrow in view of the fact that we have referred some 20 private members' bills to committees and have indicated that we will make government time available for private members' bills on capital punishment. If this arrangement is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, we would ask to have it made an order of the house now.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): That is agreeable to us, Mr. Speaker. The only undertaking we would like to have is that the forgoing of private members' hours will not mean that this time is lost entirely to private members but will be made available at some future date.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker; my suggestion was that it merely be postponed.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to agree to the suggestions the government house leader has made. I should like to say that very clearly, because I thought from what I heard earlier there was something else in his mind, but he did not put that something else on the record so I do not have to be concerned about it. We are prepared to agree to the suspending of consideration of the estimates of the Department of Justice and to our taking up the estimates of the five departments the minister named. We are prepared to agree that the private members' hours of today and tomorrow be postponed until a later time; and we are prepared to try to get the estimates of these five departments through by tomorrow evening.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): We agree, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues has suggested that I add the words "provided the ministers co-operate".

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, we are happy to co-operate in the program as outlined by the minister.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

Mr. Speaker: Shall it be an order of the house that private members' hours for today and tomorrow be postponed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

TRADE

COPPER—CHANGES IN CONTROL OF ORE AND CONCENTRATE EXPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I direct these questions to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of the statement he made today. I would ask him to answer the two questions I raised during the course of my earlier remarks, and in addition these questions. Were the restrictions on copper exports, following upon similar restrictions imposed in the United States, undertaken at the request of the United States? To what countries and what regions has Canadian copper been diverted, and are any of the countries to which the diversion has taken place or is expected to take place behind the iron curtain or within the communist sphere of influence?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the action was not taken at the request of the United States. It was based on domestic policy in an endeavour to assure a supply of copper to the greatest extent possible for domestic use. There have been no diversions of concentrates or ores. This is just an attempt to get our house in order so that any contracts that might be on the verge of being terminated between the suppliers of concentrates and smelters will come before us for consideration before they are renewed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have a question with respect to the granting of individual permits. Will those permits be granted on the basis of equality and without any suggestion of discrimination as between applicants?

Mr. Winters: To the best of my ability that will be done, sir.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. As I understand it, scrap copper is not included in this order. My question is, why did the minister not include the export of scrap copper to the United States?