

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 9, 1967 • (11:10 a.m.)

The house met at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Mr. Speaker: May I bring to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Speaker's gallery of the president of the national assembly of Czechoslovakia and Mrs. Las-tovicka.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: On behalf of all members I wish them an enjoyable stay in Ottawa and a pleasant visit to Montreal, Quebec and Cornwall.

[Translation]

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish our distinguished visitors a pleasant stay with us.

[English]

TRANSPORTATION

CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT RESPECTING RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT APPLICATIONS

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if on motions I might make a very brief personal explanation on the matter raised yesterday by the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson).

I have checked my recollections and they are quite correct, namely that what I said about the abandonment of branch lines was that all applications for protected lines would be withdrawn as soon as the bill was passed. I have had a very careful check made of all my references, and I indicated that in the case of unprotected lines, it would not be necessary for new applications to be made but that the applications would be dealt with under the provisions and with all the protection of the new law, and that if there was any delay in establishing the Canadian Transport Commission the Board of Transport Commissioners has the power given to it by parliament to deal with these matters in the meantime. It would not be reasonable to hold them up because of a delay in the establishment of the new commission, but the new protection and the new provisions will apply.

CANADA DAY

PROVISION FOR NAME AND OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-129, respecting Canada Day.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to give to our national holiday the name Canada Day, and to provide for it to continue to be celebrated on July 1 except when that day falls on a Sunday. This bill would make one other provision, namely that in any year in which July 1 falls on a Saturday, Canada Day would be observed on that day but Monday, July 3, would also be a legal holiday. If arrangements could be made for this bill to be passed shortly it would be effective, so far as its latter provision is concerned, this year; otherwise the next year that provision would be effective would be 1972.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

On the order: Government notices of motions:

June 7—The Minister of Transport—That the annual reports for 1966 of the Canadian National Railways and of the Canadian National Railways securities trust, tabled April 26, 1967, and the auditor's report to parliament for 1966 in respect of the Canadian National Railways tabled May 29, 1967, be referred to the standing committee on transport and communications.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 21 this notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the house.

UNITED NATIONS

MIDDLE EAST—CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN POSSIBLE PEACE KEEPING FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the