

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 11, 1968

The house met at 11 a.m.

[Translation]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS AND CANDIDATES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-117 entitled: "An act to amend the Canada Elections Act (Qualifications of voters and candidates)."

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to amend the Canada Elections Act so that Canadian citizens alone will be voters or candidates in elections.

Motion agreed to and bill read for the first time.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF FARM LOAN LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question and to renew the request I made to him last night. Would he agree to bring forward the farm improvement loan bill as the first item of government business today, or early today, on the basis that the house would agree to an order that at the end of an hour all questions necessary to pass the legislation through all stages would be put? Possibly members of the creditiste party who opposed this suggestion last night might be prepared to accept it now.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there are a number of members who are not present in the house at the moment but who were advised yesterday that the farm legislation would not be called today. These were members who wanted to participate in the balance of the debate, and I think we could accept that members on both sides of the house wanted to be involved. However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest to the house leaders of the other side

that we could substitute the farm bills for the post office bill that was announced for Tuesday. We would like to get several of these bills through, and we are prepared to offer to put them on next Tuesday rather than the announced post office legislation. This will also require some changes, but if the opposition house leaders agree we would be quite willing to call these bills for one more day.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF REORGANIZATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development my question is addressed to the Minister without Portfolio from Port Arthur. In view of statements made on the C.B.C. national news last night by the president of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood that Indian affairs department reorganization will have the effect of more centralization in Ottawa, of separating economic from social programs, and of appointing a biologist as community development director, will the minister give an assurance to the house that he or his officials will consult with this Indian spokesman and others before giving effect to the reorganization?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the government has noted the representations made by Indian organizations on the reorganization program and has assured them that the government, as part of its review of all social development programs, will study all submissions made by Indian organizations and other interested parties. As a matter of fact the minister made this statement in the house last week in connection with an Indian-Eskimo proposal for a new development agency.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister, and ask him whether there are any plans to place the subject of constitutional jurisdiction with respect to Indian people upon the agenda for any federal-provincial constitutional conferences, that jurisdiction being now vested in the parliament of Canada.