

Business of the House

members can raise their own salaries quickly. I think the situation that has arisen is one to which Your Honour ought to give further consideration, perhaps not at this time but later.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for Oxford for his additional suggestions. The point is well taken. To the extent that the Chair can exert influence in such matters, I will be pleased to intervene. I am not sure in what way that can be done. Perhaps I could do it by communicating within the next 24 hours, or even the next few days, with the House Leaders to try to bring about meetings between the House Leaders in an attempt to find an effective way to overcome the difficulty which has been brought to the attention of the Chair.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader has complained that Bill C-207 has taken too long before the committee of the whole. May I suggest to him that passage of this bill through committee of the whole would be speeded up if he were to make sure that the ministers who are responsible for the various clauses of the bill are present when those clauses are being discussed.

Mr. McGrath: Including the Prime Minister.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): We are coming to part II of the bill which deals with the new department of energy, mines, resources and technical surveys. If the minister concerned is not in the House when that part is discussed, how can the government expect the committee of the whole to deal expeditiously with that part of the bill. The same remarks hold true for other parts of the bill which require the presence of the Prime Minister, the Postmaster General, and others. The President of the Treasury Board has been present throughout the discussions on the bill. In his case there has been no difficulty.

I want to make it clear that, so far as this party is concerned, if the minister whose powers are being augmented is not present when relevant clauses are being discussed, we shall insist on those clauses being stood until the minister is present. If the President of the Privy Council wants to speed up passage of this legislation, he ought to urge the ministers whose departments are under review and whose powers are being altered—

Mr. Drury: Augmented.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): —or augmented to be present in the House when we are dealing with those particular parts of Bill C-207.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, may I respond briefly to the hon. member's point. I think his point is well taken. I certainly agree that if, at any particular moment, the minister concerned is not in the House, that that part of the bill ought to be stood until he is able to come to the House. That is understood.

In the past, when bills like this were brought forward in the name of the Prime Minister, the various relevant parts of the bill were carried in committee by the various

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

ministers concerned. We hoped to follow this procedure on this occasion and bring in the appropriate minister at the appropriate stage. I regret that on Friday this system broke down temporarily. We were agreeable to standing that portion of the bill until the appropriate minister could come to the House. He is here today and we can deal with that part of the bill.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

• (3:10 p.m.)

WAYS AND MEANS**INCOME TAX ACT**

The House proceeded to the consideration of Ways and Means motions to amend the Income Tax Act.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for Mr. Benson) moved:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide that the surtax imposed on individuals and corporations by Part IA of the Income Tax Act be applicable in the case of individuals to the 1971 taxation year and in the case of corporations to taxable income earned in 1971.

That it is expedient to amend the Income Tax Act to provide that a taxpayer who acquires prescribed property in the period between December 3, 1970 and April 1, 1972 for use in a manufacturing or processing business, shall, for the purpose of computing capital cost allowances in respect thereof and for other related purposes, be deemed to have acquired the property at a capital cost to the taxpayer equal to 115 per cent of his actual capital cost.

Motions agreed to.

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INCOME TAX ACT

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (for Mr. Benson) moved that Bill C-225, to amend the Income Tax Act and to amend An Act to amend that Act, be read the first time and printed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 1970

PROVISIONS RESPECTING DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION, MINISTRIES OF STATE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, ETC.

The House resumed, from Friday, February 12, consideration in committee of Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Honey in the chair.

The Chairman: When the committee rose on Friday, February 12, clause 6 of the bill with the amendment of the hon. member for Kootenay West was under consideration. Is the committee ready for the question on the amendment?