

discussing such matters, and if it is the wish of the house it will be done after the December conference, as was the procedure in the past.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period expired some minutes ago. If there is unanimous consent of the House, perhaps the hon. member for Hamilton West might be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO TRANSCAN CUSTOM HOMES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I wish to direct another question to the minister who answered the first part of my question. We all know that his department treats all applications with great sympathy, but I wish to know whether his department will approve the application being made by Transcan Custom Homes in order that the housing shortage experienced by low income families may be relieved?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I know most of the problems. The application will be processed as soon as possible.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. No doubt he will have noticed that quite a few other hon. members are still anxious to ask questions. Generosity has been shown by hon. members in allowing the question period to go well beyond its allotted time. I think we should go on with the business of the House at this time.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I tried today to have the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion say if he would be prepared to make a statement on motions. This question, Mr. Speaker—and that is why I am now raising my point of order—was prompted by the fact the minister released a statement to the press at three o'clock this afternoon. I think the House is entitled to have the information first, so that appropriate comment may be made here.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In view of the apparent interest in

Ways and Means

the question period, could I ask for unanimous consent to extend the period?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: I doubt whether there would be unanimous consent. There might be opposition from the Chair. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

• (4:10 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

WAYS AND MEANS

EXCISE TAX ACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of a ways and means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act.

Hon. Herb Gray (for the Minister of Finance) moved:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Excise Tax Act to provide

(1) that a tax of five per cent be imposed on each amount paid or payable in Canada for transportation of a person by air where such transportation

(a) begins at a point in Canada and ends at a point in the taxation area,

(b) begins at a point in the taxation area outside Canada and ends at a point in Canada, or

(c) begins at a point in the taxation area outside Canada and ends at a point in the taxation area outside Canada,

(2) that a tax of five dollars, or such lesser amount not less than two dollars, as the Governor in Council may determine, be imposed on each amount paid or payable in Canada for transportation of a person by air where such transportation begins at a point in the taxation area and ends at a point outside the taxation area,

(3) that the expression "taxation area" shall mean Canada, the United States (except Hawaii) and the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and

(4) that the legislation based on this resolution shall come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I was rising to speak just as Your Honour put the motion. I was hoping to hear the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Gray) make a statement of explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister would be out of order if he attempted to do so. There is no provision for that to be done under Standing Order 60(10).