

● (1420)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sharp:** I know that all hon. members would like to break at Christmas time and get home to their families. The date I have tentatively in mind for adjournment is December 20. I hope we can adjourn by that date.

I want to make it clear that this decision on the part of the government, which follows the suggestion made by the House leader of the official opposition, does not in any way indicate any withdrawal by the government of any part or any of the objectives of the petroleum administration bill.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the government House leader for this information which represents a useful contribution to the deliberations of parliament and shows that when necessary this House, representing all Canadians, can make an effective contribution to solving the problems of this country. I welcome the statement that the petroleum administration bill will be put off, for discussions if necessary, until after the Christmas recess. This decision is particularly timely as today the Premier of Alberta has made constructive proposals which will contribute significantly to the establishment of new sources of petroleum in this country. I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) will find an early way of convening a meeting of first ministers so that, on behalf of all the people of Canada, this matter may be discussed and, hopefully, some solution found to one of the problems which worries the people of this country a good deal. We will be prepared to co-operate with the government in working out the type of program which the government feels will be required between now and the interesting day on which the minister has proposed the House is to adjourn.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure no one in this House would think of suggesting that this arrangement has been made so that we can begin our Christmas holidays on December 20; therefore I will not make that suggestion, although others may. Seriously, I commend the government for having found lawyers who can advise it how to deal with the collection of the export tax and the payment of compensation payments without becoming involved in a confrontation on the floor of the House of Commons during the Christmas period. We think it is a good idea that the government has decided to take a bit more time to sort out problems associated with Bill C-32 and with certain provisions of the proposed Income Tax bill. Therefore we accept this proposed order of business, with the expectation that, before the day is out, the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) may be able to tell us about the business for the remainder of next week.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) for his official confirmation to the House of the agreements concluded by the parliamentary leaders in the House as a result of our discussions.

I think that the solution chosen by the government, not to leave in abeyance but to settle the problems concerning Bill C-32, as stated by the member for Winnipeg North

#### *Seafarers' International Union*

Centre (Mr. Knowles) to avoid a major confrontation which would endanger the proceedings of the House, is a wise one and will show that it is always possible to come to an agreement. This is when the House of Commons takes its true meaning.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the proposal made by the President of the Privy Council, but I would like him to specify what he intends to do about Bills C-40 and C-39 concerning customs and excise charges.

[English]

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, these two bills will, I hope, be up for discussion amongst the House leaders when I meet with them later today. Of course, they are not being withdrawn or postponed in any way. I also have to meet the convenience of my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

### MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 26, I ask that the House do now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the many irregularities that exist within the Seafarers' International Union which from all allegations and documentations which I possess should lead to a federal public inquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** In accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 26, the hon. member was good enough to give the Chair notice of his intention to move this motion and, therefore, an opportunity to consider whether it is the proper subject under the circumstances of a motion pursuant to Standing Order 26.

I might refer hon. members to the wording of Standing Order 26(5) which reads as follows:

In determining whether a matter should have urgent consideration, Mr. Speaker shall have regard to the extent to which it concerns the administrative responsibilities of the government or could come within the scope of ministerial action and he also shall have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the House within reasonable time by other means.

To begin, it is obvious that the matter raised by the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley (Mr. Jelinek) is extremely important. Indeed, it has occupied much of the attention of the House over the past several years, as it ought to because of its importance. However, that very fact seems to indicate that first, the questions which have been put to the ministry over the past couple of weeks represent a fairly thorough airing of suggestions by hon. members on one side for an inquiry and demands of that sort and responses by the ministry on the other side.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the fact that rather than this being a question which comes within the general administrative responsibility of the government, it