

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, June 14, 1960

The house met at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS

(Translation):

Mr. R. J. McCleave (Halifax) presented the tenth report of the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills, in French and in English.

(Text):

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CHAIRMAN
KHRUSHCHEV AND PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): First, Mr. Speaker, in order to assure that the house will have the latest information with regard to a letter written to me by Chairman Khrushchev and the reply, I wish to table the letter and the reply and, with the leave of the house, to have both printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Does the house give consent to the printing of the tabled documents as an appendix to today's *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Pearson: Can the Prime Minister give us some indication of what the letter contains?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I think the best procedure is for me to provide the hon. gentleman with copies. Then after perusal, possibly tomorrow, he might have some questions to ask respecting the exchange of correspondence. If that course is agreeable it will be followed.

[For correspondence referred to above see appendix]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

STATEMENT ON FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
FOR SESSION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): There are several matters to which I wish to refer. The first is this. I undertook to place before the house the general plan of the legislation to be introduced before this session ends.

The house, of course, is fully aware of the various items set forth in the speech from the throne on January 14, 1960. Generally speaking I think all the items referred to therein will have received the attention of the house before the session concludes, with one exception; that is the undertaking to bring in amendments to the Expropriation

Act. The house will recall that an action was tried before Mr. Justice Thorson regarding the general field of expropriation, and that judgment laid open to perilous possibilities the expropriation proceedings which had been taken throughout the years. However, the Supreme Court of Canada reversed the judgment of Mr. Justice Thorson; therefore there is no immediate need at this session to proceed with the amendments to the Expropriation Act.

Now with respect to the matters yet to be dealt with; No. 1—and in numbering them in this way I do not, of course, undertake that they will be brought forward in this order—the bill of rights; No. 2, the act to set up the department of forestry; No. 3, the amendments to the Canada Elections Act; No. 4, the amendment to the Freight Rates Reduction Act made necessary by the probability that the royal commission on transportation will not have been able to report prior to the expiry date of the legislation now in effect, that date being July 31; No. 5, the Civil Service Act; No. 6, the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

In addition to these there are a number of matters of legislation now before the other place which will have to be dealt with here as well. There is the trade treaty with Russia; amendments to the Canada Shipping Act; amendments to the Criminal Code, and a bill respecting the international boundary. As I say, the four last named are now before the other place.

In general I think that covers the various matters which will be brought before the house this session in addition, of course, to such matters as are already on the order paper.

There is another matter on which the house desires information, and that has to do with the private bill on capital punishment introduced by the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McGee). I am not going into the details of the discussion with regard thereto. I will, however, refer to one or two references in *Hansard*. On March 11, as reported on page 2012, a question was asked about what was going to be done in this connection. At that time the house leader said:

The matter is under consideration, but I know the house is anxious to press on with some of the legislation that is on the order paper.

He added:

This will not prevent subsequent consideration of the debate on capital punishment at a later date.