

Business of the House

I want to reiterate what I have said, Mr. Speaker, and urge on the government—and we shall continue to do this—that the proposed amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act be referred to a standing committee of the house and that ex-employees of the government be given the chance to appear before that committee and state their views with regard to their claims as to the effect of such amendments on their pensions. This type of thing requires very careful examination, and I merely urge on the government that the amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act be referred to such a standing committee.

I see the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Groos) sitting in his place, for a change. I know he spoke very volubly and very effectively last year about the position of these ex-employees of the government, and I hope he will use his good offices to prevail upon the government at least to go that far and refer the amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act to a standing committee of the house.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it ten o'clock?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we shall continue the supply motion and when it is concluded we shall call the estimates of the various departments. We shall at that stage proceed to consider the estimates of the Department of External Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Transportation, National Defence, Agriculture, Finance, Industry and Defence Production, Secretary of State, Post Office, Public Works, Mines and Technical Surveys, Fisheries, Forestry, Veterans Affairs, Justice, Labour, National Health and Welfare, Northern Affairs and National Resources, National Revenue, Citizenship and Immigration, Legislation, and the Privy Council.

In indicating the sequence of calling the departments, I want to make a reservation that we might possibly have to ask for some slight adjustment, but we hope it will not be necessary to do so. I thought it would be useful to put on record the sequence in which we propose to call the departments.

I might also take advantage of this opportunity to add that at some convenient point we shall have to call interim supply. That matter will be discussed with the house leaders.

I should also, I think, advise the house that I believe today is the last day for the striking committee set up under standing order 65 to

[Mr. Chatterton.]

report to the house as to the personnel of the committees. The members of the committee have been meeting this afternoon, and we would ask that the limitation of time for making that report to the house be extended until next Monday, if that is agreeable to the house.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, at this time I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works whether the government has any specific dates set aside for the Easter recess, and whether they have any plans formulated at this time—although I do not ask for specific dates—as to a summer recess.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, that is always a very pleasant idea and the government has been giving consideration to this problem. I am not at the moment ready to put it in the form of a motion, but our plans were to have an Easter recess starting with the close of business of the Wednesday before Good Friday and reconvening on the second Tuesday after Good Friday.

• (10:00 p.m.)

It is too far away to give specific dates for a summer recess but our planning did envisage a two month summer recess. This will have to be dealt with at a later stage. I should make it clear that in making an announcement at such an early stage, we would have to add some kind of reservation about an emergency arising, or some unforeseen event.

Mr. Churchill: Such as an election.

Mr. McIlraith: Well, I hope not so soon.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under provisional standing order 39A deemed to have been moved.

WATER RIGHTS—REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION OF PHRASE "PATENTED WATERLOT"

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I inquired of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin) if any action had been taken on a suggestion I made in May of last year with regard to the legal definition of the term waterlots or patented waterlots. Next Friday will be nine months since I raised the question in this house. I received an answer from the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Justice to the