Housing and Urban Renewal

Bill C-176, to amend the Company of Young Canadians Act.

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

AGRICULTURE

REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE RESPECTING NON-QUOTA FEED GRAIN PRICES

On the order: Government Notices of Motions:

December 17, 1969—The Minister without Portfolio (Wheat Board): That the Standing Committee on Agriculture be empowered to examine and inquire into the problem of distress or unreasonably low prices for non-quota feed grain being marketed in the designated area as defined by the Canadian Wheat Board Act and to report to the House observation and proposals thereon.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Section 2 of Standing Order 21 this notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the House.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

HOUSING

EFFECT OF ANNOUNCEMENT RESPECTING URBAN RENEWAL

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the government's announcement of yesterday which has torpedoed urban renewal and destroyed any hope of coping with the critical problems facing our cities, making it urgent that Parliament deal immediately with the situation that has now been created before the government completely abrogates its responsibilities to Canada's urban people.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has given the required notice to the Chair of his intention to move this motion under the terms of Standing Order 26. I have studied the motion carefully. I suggest to the hon. member and to the House that in the weeks ahead there will be a number of opportunities for the House to debate the policy statement made by the minister yesterday. All things considered, in the

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

circumstances I would think the House should not be adjourned for the purpose proposed by the hon. member.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

AIR TRANSPORT

RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BY TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board whether he is in a position to inform the House if there is any indication that the agreement between the government of Canada, the Department of Transport and the air traffic controllers is to be ratified?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think the House is aware that an agreement between the negotiating teams on both sides was entered into and is subject to ratification by the membership of the Air Traffic Controllers Association. This ratification is by means of balloting carried out at the various places of employment of the controllers across Canada, and the balloting is now in progress. It is not expected that all the results will reach Ottawa prior to either late tonight or early tomorrow. Until such time as these results come to the headquarters of the association, it will not be possible to ascertain whether the agreement has been ratified.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the President of the Treasury Board whether the government has any plans to put before the House in the event that the vote should prove to be unfavourable? We hope it will not be unfavourable.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I do not think one would be justified in assuming that the vote will be unfavourable. There have been some newspaper stories to the effect that there has been adverse balloting. Until we know the results I think it would be unwise as well as unsafe for us to assume that it will be adverse.

Mr. Stanfield: May I ask a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Government House Leader prepared to consult with the other House Leaders, with a view to reaching an understanding as to the mechanics that may be followed to enable the House to sit tomorrow, for example, if that should become necessary?