

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CONSENT FOR PROCEEDING WITH SUPPLY PRIOR TO PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

On the order for motions:

Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance): Yesterday evening when we were considering the supplementary estimates in committee of supply I explained that there was some urgency in having passed at a fairly early day the supply bill based on these estimates. I also explained that it was not possible for me to be in the house tomorrow. The committee indicated at that time that it would probably be prepared to give unanimous consent to proceeding with that business today, before private members' notices of motions were taken up. I would appreciate it if the house would give that consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Drew: I certainly support the suggestion that has been made that these estimates be dealt with, but since it is a matter of procedure by consent I suggest that permission be granted for the asking of questions from the floor of the house as we do when the orders of the day are called.

Mr. Abbott: That is quite all right.

Mr. Speaker: Would it be agreeable to the house if I called orders of the day, and afterwards put the motion to go into committee of supply?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF COMMITTEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to take this opportunity to ask the Prime Minister to take such steps as may be necessary to the end that the committees which have been set up be called together for organization purposes well in advance of the house rising for the Easter recess, so that the necessary preliminary steps can be taken to plan the work of the committees before hon. members leave for home. While I recognize it is not directly the responsibility of the Prime Minister, I feel sure that a suggestion from him in that regard will be followed by those who are directly responsible.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I shall be very glad to have the co-operation of the leader of the official opposition and also that of the leaders of

Inquiries of the Ministry

the other groups. All the standing committees have been organized. It is not a matter of organizing the special committees, but of getting the house to establish them. We shall try to bring that about just as soon as an opportunity can be found to do so. As soon as they are set up I will undertake to see that measures are taken to have them organized at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Drew: I wish to explain, Mr. Speaker, that when I used the term "organized" I meant actually organized for the carrying on of their work. I know that so far as the formal steps are concerned, these have been taken. It is now a matter of proceeding to the actual organization of the work. I am particularly concerned with the setting up of the public accounts committee at the earliest possible moment.

ELECTRIC POWER

QUESTION AS TO ST. MARY'S TIDAL PROJECT, BAY OF FUNDY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. W. George (Westmorland): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Resources and Development. Has the minister given any consideration to implementing the study of the St. Mary's tidal project at the head of the bay of Fundy, as suggested by me on March 13 in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne?

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. I read his speech with keen interest, and I am aware of the Acres and Melanson reports. I have requested the engineers of the department to conduct an investigation with a view to conducting an on-site survey, if this appears desirable.

Mr. Cruickshank: And the pipe line too?

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): I should like to direct to the Prime Minister the question that I put in the committee of supply last evening when the Prime Minister was not present. It had to do with item 594 of the further supplementary estimates. I asked if the government had any intimation as to when the royal commission on the arts, letters and sciences expects to complete its sittings and present its report.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I have no precise information. My