

Business of the House

done by two ladies who are now superannuated, let us have another one to finish the job. If they are not competent, fire them please.

COMBINES LEGISLATION**CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF
JOINT COMMITTEE**

Mr. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano) presented the first report of the joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons on combines legislation, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**RAILWAYS, CANALS AND
TELEGRAPH LINES****CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF
STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. L. O. Breithaupt (Waterloo North) presented the first report of the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

RIGHT HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL**ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT TO CANADA
IN JANUARY**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the house that at noon today there was made from my office, to coincide as to timing with a similar announcement being made in London, the following announcement:

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has accepted an invitation from the government of Canada to visit Canada when he is on this side of the Atlantic in January. Mr. Churchill hopes to spend two or three days in Ottawa after his visit to the United States.
[Later]:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): One other question in connection with the announcement made by the Prime Minister this afternoon that Mr. Churchill will be visiting the dominion in January. Is the government going to give consideration to an invitation to him to speak to parliament, as he did in 1941?

Mr. St. Laurent: In my communications with Mr. Churchill I was informed that it would not be possible for him to make more than one principal speech while he was in Canada. Because I expected that question might be asked, it was understood that if it was asked I would say that it was hoped he would make one principal speech in Canada but that arrangements for that would be made later. I cannot go beyond that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is fine.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

DEFENCE EXPENDITURES**MOTION FOR SETTING UP OF COMMITTEE**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved:

That a select committee be appointed to examine all expenditure of public moneys for national defence and all commitments for expenditure for national defence since March 31, 1950, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, and in particular, what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided by the government may be effected therein, with power to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses; and that notwithstanding standing order 65, the committee shall consist of twenty-six members to be designated by the house at a later date.

Mr. Drew: Is the Prime Minister going to make a statement?

Mr. St. Laurent: I did not intend to make a statement as I think the motion speaks for itself. It was announced in the house last June that there would be no objection to the setting up of this kind of committee to examine expenditures and commitments for expenditures made with respect to national defence. I think the motion is drawn in a way to carry out the undertaking that was given at that time.

At that time I said these departments were just being organized and getting under way and I did not think that much useful work could be done at that time as it would interfere with the organization that was going on if the principal officers had to attend for committee work. I think now this should be a continuing committee. When I gave notice the other day I said it would be unrealistic to think that the committee could get very far during this short session, but I think it would make for the expeditious prosecution of its work if it got under way now, and then it could be set up at a very early date in the ensuing sessions.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, naturally I welcome the introduction of this motion by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) because there has been a request for some considerable time from this side of the house for a committee of this kind. I welcome particularly the statement made by the Prime Minister that it is the intention that this shall be a continuing committee. It is the expectation that a committee with similar terms of reference will be formed early in the new session when there will be an opportunity to proceed to deal with matters in a way that will not be possible during the period remaining in this short session.

Nevertheless there will be time before this session comes to an end to deal with a number of important subjects. I trust that during