

*Supply***LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT**

Report of the joint librarians of parliament.
—Mr. Speaker.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS
AS TO AMENDMENTS—TABLING OF
CORRESPONDENCE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, you and hon. members will have noticed a paragraph in the speech of His Excellency which states:

My ministers will seek to arrange for early consultation with the provincial governments with a view to agreeing upon an appropriate procedure for making within Canada such other amendments to the constitution as may from time to time be required.

This is a matter of concern to both the federal and the provincial authorities. Yesterday I dispatched letters to the premiers of the ten provinces. I am tabling a copy of the letter written in French to Premier Duplessis, and a copy of the letter written in English to Hon. Leslie M. Frost, Premier of Ontario. I may say that the letters to the other premiers were in terms identical with those to be found in the copy of the letter to Premier Frost.

SUPPLY

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

That this house resolve itself at its next sitting into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to His Majesty, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 57.

Standing order 57 does not prevent this from being done at this time, but provides that as soon as the address in reply to the speech from the throne is adopted, there shall be set up a committee of ways and means and a committee of supply. Hon. members who were here during the last parliament will recall that we voted interim supply for a period which will expire at the end of this month. While it is hoped to deal with the estimates as early and as expeditiously as possible, it may be necessary, in order to prevent any disturbance in the public service, to ask for additional supply, because it is hardly likely that the supply bill can be adopted in its final form before September 30.

I think it would be desirable to have these committees set up at the earliest possible moment so that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) may table his estimates. Naturally the estimates will be the same as those which were tabled at the last session, and on which the interim supply passed at the last session

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

was based. I hope I shall have the agreement of the house to the adoption of this motion.

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

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

That this house do at the next sitting resolve itself into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to His Majesty, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 57.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES
OF THE WHOLE

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

That Joseph Alfred Dion, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Roberval, be appointed chairman of committees of the whole house, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 56.

As hon. members know, the chairman of the committees of the whole is also the Deputy Speaker. I have named as candidate for that office a gentleman who I think has the qualifications to fill it with the fairness and impartiality that have heretofore distinguished the holders of this office. He is Mr. Joseph Alfred Dion, member for the electoral district of Roberval, a distinguished lawyer. As hon. members who were here during the last parliament know, he was an attentive follower of the deliberations of this house, and one who on many occasions made valuable contributions to its debates.

Motion agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF
COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is provided in rule 56 of the rules of the house that a deputy chairman of committees may be appointed. I think our experience in the performance of the duties of that office by a gentleman who is now in another place has shown us the value and desirability of having a deputy chairman of committees.

I should like to move:

That Louis René Beaudoin, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 56.

I am sure that those who were here last year were impressed, as I was, by his constant attendance and attention to the business