

Business of the House

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the minister for this announcement, and will reserve any statement as to our final position until we see what this really means. I should like to bring to the attention of the minister and the government the fact that we feel more attention should be paid to an attempt to develop the processing side of the metal mining industry in Canada. It is very easy to understand, and you do not have to study too deeply to know, that in the metal mining industry the vast majority of jobs are in the processing rather than in the extraction of these minerals. I think the policy has existed far too long whereby, while extraction of our natural resources is done here, the great majority of jobs are available in the processing field in foreign countries. The government must realize and take the necessary steps to see that more of our resources are processed here in this country rather than elsewhere.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, we have listened closely to the statement just made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) with regard to the control of copper exports.

I fully agree with the hon. member for Timmins (Mr. Martin) who said that the government should define more clearly its export policy in general, but, in this case, on copper.

I represent a copper producing area myself and we are all anxious to see the government take the responsibility of establishing secondary industries in our area, in order to process on the spot, here in Canada, metals such as copper.

Now, I believe that the statement of the minister is not very clear in the circumstances. Something is abolished, something else is added; other restrictions are applied, while others no longer apply, and so on and so forth.

This is a hodgepodge the majority of Canadians will not understand. Consequently, the minister should be clearer and more precise in his statement and let us know what the government intends to do not only concerning the copper producers but also processing in this country, so that we can sell finished products outside Canada, because such exports would be profitable.

[*English*]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, speaking very briefly on the announcement by the Minister of Trade and

Commerce, let me say that we assume the situation that has necessitated these decisions regarding the export of copper relates to our own needs and the fact that copper is becoming less plentiful on the foreign markets than it has been.

I want to support the statement made by the hon. member for Timmins (Mr. Martin). The needs of the Canadian market and the Canadian people will never be met adequately until a greater degree of our natural resources, copper in this instance, are not only extracted but also processed and finished within this country.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**REARRANGEMENT OF DEPARTMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN SUPPLY**

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to make a short statement concerning the business of the house, which I believe will be of interest to hon. members and will give them information about the procedure we propose to follow when government orders are called today.

• (2:50 p.m.)

It will be recalled that on February 9 last the Prime Minister announced the meeting of the joint United States-Canadian ministerial committee on trade and economic affairs in Washington on March 4 and 5. That meeting necessitates the absence of five ministers from the house on Thursday and Friday, if they are to keep their commitments at that meeting. The ministers are the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys.

It will be apparent to many hon. members that there might not be adequate time before Thursday to discuss the estimates of these departments, and in order that there should be an opportunity to deal with them before then the government proposes that when the house resolves itself into committee of supply today the estimates of these departments be called one after the other, not necessarily in the order I have indicated. We would postpone consideration of the estimates of the Department of Justice until the estimates of these five departments are completed, and would then immediately resume the estimates of the Department of Justice.