

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 12, 1976

The House met at 11 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before reading the communication I have received, and since it is predicted that the present session is soon to terminate, I wish to draw to the attention of the House the fact that there is some disposition on the part of the government to answer certain questions and some agreement on the part of the House to receive answers at this time. At this point this procedure can only be embarked upon with unanimous consent. Before we receive the messenger may I ask, is there unanimous agreement at this point for depositing certain answers to the House. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Apparently there is not unanimous consent at this time.

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I speak to that matter for a moment? I hope the government is not merely asking for the right to table answers to questions. There are orders for returns to be tabled and I understood that the government would be answering questions in the normal way. We would be giving consent to do that. They would be printed as part of today's *Hansard*, in the normal way. That was the understanding arrived at. I say this as I think the House should be made aware of the discussions which have taken place.

● (1110)

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the volume of questions to be answered today, in one way or another, is obvious to the House by the stack of material I have on my desk. This includes answers in three categories; answers to be made in the normal fashion, a number of orders for returns to be tabled immediately, if that is the wish of the House, and a number of orders for returns to be tabled at a later date. I could read through all of the numbers, all 566 of them. I would prefer to have unanimous consent to simply deal with them in the normal way. Depending on the nature of the answers, they would be printed in *Hansard* and/or *Votes and Proceedings* as usual.

Mr. Speaker: I therefore ask, does the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Goodale) have the unanimous consent of the House to make these answers at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received which is as follows:

Ottawa, September 29, 1976

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Bora Laskin, F.C., Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 12th, for the purpose of proroguing the First Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,
sir,
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

Then, the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the first session of the thirtieth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The First Session of the Thirtieth Parliament was opened on September 30, 1974. In the 744 days since the opening, the Senate has met 216 times and the House, 343 times. Both in terms of the amount of elapsed time and the number of sittings of each House, this has been, by far, the longest session in the history of the Parliament of Canada. In terms of public legislation, this has been our most productive session, although, if examined on a yearly basis, the pace of legislation has been at the rate that has come to be normally expected in the last two decades.

The principal direction of the legislation enacted during this session has been toward the reasonable development and the just and equitable sharing of the great riches of our land. In addition to several important fiscal measures that have been passed, Parliament has put into place a program to combat inflation so that Canadians may indeed reap the benefits of their own productivity. As part of this program the Government has imposed upon itself a policy of restraint in the growth of its own expenditures and Parliament, as part of this program, has enacted alterations to such statutes as the Medical Care Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

At the same time, Parliament has not been unmindful of the need for continuing growth of the economy and has amended the Export Development Act and created the Federal Business Development Bank. The orderly development of business will be assisted by the enactment of the Canada Business Corporations Act and healthy competition in the free market will be stimulated by the amendments to the Combines Investigation Act.