

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, May 12, 1965

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PROVISION FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES AND ALLOCATION OF TIME

On the order: Government Notices of Motions.

May 10—The Prime Minister:

That this House recognizes the need for improving its procedures to provide full opportunity for the critical examination of proposed legislation and to ensure the effective dispatch of public business;

That this House agrees upon the need for allocating the time for the business of the House; and

That, in order to secure improved examination of the details of legislation and of public spending, while maintaining the full authority of the House, this House agrees upon the value of making increased use of Standing Committees;

That this House accordingly orders:

1. That detailed examination of estimates, saving always the right of the Committee of Supply, be undertaken by Standing Committees and that not more than 36 days of the time of the House be allocated to the business of supply in each session. For the purpose of this order, the business of supply shall consist of proceedings on motions. "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair"; supplementary or additional estimates for the financial year; interim supply; and main estimates whether for the coming or the current financial year. That a Special Committee of the House, consisting of twenty-two members, to be designated later by the House, be instructed to prepare and to submit to the House forthwith the changes in Standing Orders consequential upon this order, including any means of giving to the opposition an opportunity to select the departmental estimates to be discussed.

2. That the Standing Orders be amended by adding thereto a new Standing Order 15-A, to read as follows:

Standing Order 15-A

15-A (1) There shall be a Business Committee to which the leader of each party in the House from time to time by written notice to the Speaker may appoint one member.

(2) During routine proceedings a Minister of the Crown may request that the question of allocation of time for consideration of any item of business or stage thereof be referred to the Business Committee for consideration and report, and upon such request being made such question shall stand referred to the committee.

(3) The Business Committee shall report back to the House on or before the third sitting day following such request.

(4) If the Chairman of the Business Committee reports that the Committee has unanimously rec-

commended an allocation of time for the item of business or stage thereof, a Minister of the Crown may without notice propose a motion, to be decided without debate or amendment, for concurrence in the report, and, if agreed to, the motion shall have the same effect as if it were an order of the House.

(5) If the Chairman of the Business Committee reports that the committee has been unable to reach a unanimous agreement or if the committee fails to report within the time specified by Section (3) of this Standing Order, a Minister of the Crown may give notice that at the next sitting of the House he will move that an order be made allocating the time for the item of business or stage thereof.

(6) A motion of which a Minister has given notice under Section (5) of this Standing Order shall be made during routine proceedings. Unless the debate on the motion has been previously concluded, Mr. Speaker shall at fifteen minutes before the expiry of the time provided for Government business in such sitting, interrupt the proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the main motion. A motion requesting allocation of time, if agreed to, shall have the same effect as if it were an order of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 21, this Notice of Motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under Government Orders.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS RESPECTING CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) moved that the House go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the House by His Excellency:

May 10—The Prime Minister:

That the House do go into Committee of the Whole at its next sitting to consider the following proposed Resolution:—

That the following amendments be made to Standing Orders:

1. That Standing Order 6 be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

Standing Order 6

6. (1) At 6:00 o'clock p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and at 10:00 o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, unless provided otherwise in these Standing Orders, Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the House without question put until the next sitting day.

(2) A motion that the House continue to sit after the hour specified in Section (1) may be made at any time without notice. If any member objects to the motion, Mr. Speaker shall request those members who object to rise in their places and if ten or more members then rise, the question shall not