HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 15, 1970

The House met at 11 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CALLING OF MOTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we have had further discussions with regard to the re-establishment of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada. As a result of these discussions there may be unanimous consent for an order that would provide that the first item of business called today would be the motion under government orders to re-establish the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution.

• (11:10 a.m.)

After this motion has been discussed for perhaps one or two hours, notwithstanding Standing Order 38(2), the address debate will continue for the rest of the day. This day will be regarded as the fourth appointed day. There will be a division as scheduled at 9.30 p.m. this evening. Monday next will be the sixth appointed day. There will be a division at 9.30 p.m. on that day. In other words, despite the interruption of the debate for a short time today, we are providing that the votes will take place at the normal time. We also undertake that the time lost because of discussion of the motion to establish the Special Joint Committee of the Constitution will be compensated at the end of the debate on the Speech from the Throne or in some other way.

It has also been informally agreed that because the vote tonight will be on the Creditiste subamendment there will be special consideration to ensure that the members of that group will be able to express their point of view before the vote on their subamendment is called. If that is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, I can send Your Honour a copy of what I have stated which may be of some help.

Mr. Speaker: It appears that the suggestion made by the President of the Privy Council is clear. Does the House agree? If so, there will be an order accordingly.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—INCREASE IN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE—MEASURES TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment just announced is nearly 7 per cent—6.9 per cent—does the government intend to propose any new measures, especially in view of the fact that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for those between the ages of 14 and 24 is now 11.7 per cent, some 67,000 higher than last year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the sense of disillusionment and alienation likely to arise among this very large percentage and vast number of unemployed young Canadians and in light of the tensions existing in the country, will the Prime Minister give the House some assurance that the government will take vigorous measures to stimulate employment and reduce this very serious damage to this considerable percentage of Canadian youth and, indeed, to the social fabric of the country?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have taken vigorous action and we will take more.

Mr. Stanfield: I am not sure who is the minister responsible, but can someone explain why in this Dominion Bureau of Statistics bulletin the usual figures relating to hard core unemployed have been omitted?

Mr. Trudeau: Perhaps the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who is responsible for DBS, might give the answer.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I do not know, Mr. Speaker, but I will find out

UNEMPLOYMENT—INCREASE IN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE—YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND WINTER WORKS PROGRAMS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the very serious figures that have just been released with respect to unemployment, and the effect on young people in particular, I ask the Prime Minister