

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, August 30, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William) presented the second report of the standing committee on northern affairs and national resources and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

GEORGE VICTOR SPENCER—TABLING OF COMMISSION REPORT

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table copies in English and French of the report of Mr. Justice Dalton Wells concerning George Victor Spencer.

Mr. Speaker: Has the minister leave to table this report?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

LABOUR RELATIONS

RAILWAY STRIKE—UNION POSITION RESPECTING PROPOSED LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. Can he say, after his meeting with the leaders of the railway unions this morning, whether those leaders expressed any acceptance of the bill now before the house? What was their reaction to that bill?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): As I indicated yesterday, the processes of mediation were continuing while we were discussing legislation in the house, and it was in connection with those processes that I had the privilege of meeting the union leaders last evening and again this morning to discuss current developments including, of course, the bill which is before the house. But I cannot say anything about those discussions at this moment.

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Mr. Starr: Could the Prime Minister clarify the statement he made to the press after the meeting had adjourned, when he said "We have a better understanding of the situation"?

Mr. Pearson: Yes. I meant I had a better understanding of the attitude of the union leaders toward certain matters under discussion.

[Later:]

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, in view of the union leaders' reactions in the last few hours to the bill before us to end the strike I would ask the Minister of Labour, did the government consult railway management and union leaders on the terms of this legislation before presenting it to the House of Commons?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour discussed with leaders of the labour movement certain proposals that might be incorporated in legislation but certainly not the legislation itself. As to the railways management, I cannot speak with any authority on that matter. Possibly the Minister of Transport may have had some discussions with them in this same regard.

Mr. Grafftey: Did management and the union leaders give the government any information on which they based this legislation, which gave the government reasonable hope and assurance that it would be effective?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubts as to whether this line of questioning is in order, particularly in view of the fact that this question refers specifically to legislation which is now before the house. It seems to me this is the type of question which might very well be asked when the house resumes consideration of the legislation.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

ATTENDANCE OF PRIME MINISTER AT COMING CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister on an entirely different subject; I may