

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Apropos of the statement made by the minister, is one of the reasons for changing the act to get away from the idea of calling many of these things luxury taxes? I judge there is to be no change in the luxury taxes?

Mr. McCANN: There are no changes in any of the taxation in this act.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): I was suggesting that this luxury tax we are talking about, such as the tax on alarm clocks, flatware and so on, will stay on for some time. Is that the idea? Or does the minister propose to make some change shortly, revamping the tax on luxuries, as we call them?

Mr. McCANN: That is not within my province. That belongs to the Minister of Finance. We do nothing with reference to the changes except see that they are properly and honestly administered.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

SUPPLY

VETERANS' AFFAIRS—VETERANS' TAXI OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL

Hon. PAUL MARTIN (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the house will recall that on Friday last it was agreed that we would call two new departments on going into supply. The first item that I suggest be called is No. 366, of the Secretary of State.

Mr. G. S. WHITE (Hastings-Peterborough): Before you leave the chair, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MARTIN: If the hon. gentleman has anything to discuss, in view of the peculiar conditions prevailing this evening, perhaps it would be better to let the matter stand. It was agreed that we would go on with the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare, and in view of the fact that members of the ministry are otherwise engaged it would seem to me that if the hon. gentleman has no objection we should not proceed

with the question he has in mind. Perhaps in view of the circumstances he might agree with me in that.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings-Peterborough): In reply to the remarks of the minister I would say that the matter I wish to bring up is the one I raised last Thursday, with which I was not allowed to proceed. On Friday evening the leader of the house indicated that if we reached supply on Monday we would take national health and welfare, and agriculture.

Yesterday afternoon we did not reach supply, nor did we reach it by eleven o'clock. Then the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie), in giving the business for today, said he hoped to bring in the two departments he had expected to get in the day previous, and two more. If that is correct, that will leave only one or two departments still to come in.

Mr. MARTIN: No; it will leave five more. These two will make fifteen, and that will leave five others still to come.

Mr. WHITE (Hastings-Peterborough): Even so, the opportunities yet to be afforded hon. members will be very few, and the matter I wish to raise, after trying to do so last Thursday in the proper way and being prevented from doing so, in my view is important. It became my intention to take advantage of the first opportunity to bring up that matter on going into supply. I expected that opportunity yesterday, but it did not materialize, so that this is my first chance to do so. It is to be regretted that the Minister of Veterans Affairs is not here, but in my view the matter I wish to discuss is urgent and should be brought before the house as soon as possible. Therefore, with all due respect to what the minister has said, I should like to proceed.

Mr. MARTIN: I am sure the hon. gentleman will permit me to interrupt once more. I appreciate that the point he wishes to raise is, in his judgment, an important matter, but I would point out to him and to the house that at Rideau Hall a dinner is being held tonight in honour of the President of the United States. It is only proper that members of the government should be at that dinner; and among those in attendance is the senior privy councillor other than the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King); that is, the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the well known chivalry of my hon. friend, I would respectfully suggest to him that his point could be raised the next time supply is called for the purpose of bringing in another department. In the circumstances, in view