

Inquiries of the Ministry
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**INQUIRY CONCERNING CHRISTMAS
 ADJOURNMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as government house leader whether he has been able to formulate any plan for the adjournment of the house over the Christmas-New Year holiday?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to make a firm announcement at the moment but our thinking is that we would adjourn for a Christmas break on the evening of December 22, to reconvene on January 3, with the hope of finishing the remainder of the legislation fairly promptly, and then having a short adjournment before the centennial session opens.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in this sort of tentative proposal I wonder whether the minister has taken into account the fact that some hon. members already may have gone on their Christmas vacation?

**OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN
 MUNICIPAL VOTING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, my question also is directed to the government house leader. Inasmuch as the weight of debate today falls on the opposition, I should like to ask him whether he would consider adjourning the house from five o'clock to seven o'clock in order to allow the members of the House of Commons staff—and this involves a considerable number of people—to cast their ballots in the civic elections?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): I have no objection to that, Mr. Speaker.

THE BUDGET

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL MEASURES—INQUIRY
 AS TO PROBABLE DATE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister been able to decide on the date on which he will bring down his supplementary budget?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Pearson.]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**BRITISH COLUMBIA—CLEMENCY TO TRADE
 UNION LEADERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Solicitor General, in keeping with the spirit of good will at this season of the year. In view of all the circumstances and taking into account their previous records as good citizens of this country, including in some cases overseas service, would the minister consider granting clemency for the trade union leaders at present jailed in British Columbia, so that they will be able to rejoin their families for the Christmas season?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I should say that the hon. member for York South has already made some representations to me along these same lines. The matter is still under consideration. I am awaiting a copy of the argument advanced at the trial, which may be pertinent to the question before me.

TRANSPORT

**SUGGESTED RE-ROUTING OF BOX CARS
 TO PORT OF CHURCHILL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, or in his absence to his parliamentary secretary. Will the department consider re-routing some of the box cars, which are presently sitting on sidings as a result of the embargo placed on shipments to the west coast, to facilitate the shipment of grain to the port of Churchill in order to fill up facilities there? These box cars are not being used at the moment.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the minister I will have this matter looked into.

IMMIGRATION

AMENDMENT RESPECTING U.S. CITIZENS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is it the intention of the government to amend the present immigration laws which today