

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Saturday, January 11, 1958

The house met at eleven o'clock.

HOUSING

CAMP BORDEN—STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO NEW CONTRACTS AWARDED

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the house that contracts were awarded on January 8 by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation covering the construction of 160 housing units and related services at Camp Borden, Ontario, the details of which are as follows: A contract for 160 housing units awarded to Grisenthwaite Construction Company Limited of Hamilton for a price of \$1,563,176, and to Swansea Construction Company Limited of Toronto a contract in the sum of \$171,062.64 for sewer and water services and roads.

In accordance with the government's wish to undertake as much work as possible during the winter months, these contracts have been awarded on the understanding that the work will begin as soon as possible. To this end it is planned that work will start about January 20. It is contemplated that as the work proceeds the labour force required will reach a peak of from 250 to 300 men employed directly on the site. The number of men indirectly employed in the supply of material and equipment will, of course, greatly exceed the number directly employed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 15, TO FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 17

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) moved:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of any standing or special order of the house, the hours of sitting on Wednesday next, January 15, shall be from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., with the usual intermission at 1.00 p.m., and that when the house adjourns at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday next, it shall stand adjourned until 11.00 a.m. on Friday, January 17.

He said: Mr. Speaker, there is an event being held next week in the city of Ottawa which concerns all Canadians. Under our democratic system all of us are deeply interested, as Canadians as a whole will be, in the proceedings which will take place in this city leading to the selection of a chief-tain for the Liberal party in succession to Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, if I may be allowed to mention his name in that way.

Parliament, however, has been called back. Most of us had felt that the session would have been over; and no doubt that probability was in the minds of those responsible for calling and setting the date of the convention. I make this motion in all sincerity to indicate the interest of Canadians as a whole in the momentous proceedings which are to take place.

The public interest, as I see it, would not be served by an adjournment of parliament throughout the entire period of the convention. I say this to my hon. friends opposite; that in no way has it been suggested to me by them that this house should adjourn at any time during the convention. What I am proposing, in the motion that has been referred to by Your Honour, is to be done in the interest of Canadians as a whole and of hon. members in all parts of this house. Certainly we on the government side of the house realize that above everything else in our system of government a strong opposition is necessary.

The nominations for the selection of the leader, according to the agenda as published in the press, will be made on Wednesday evening. Then throughout Thursday there will be a number of meetings culminating finally in the choice of the new leader of the Liberal party who, in consequence of that selection, will become leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

In order to show the attitude taken by the government with regard to the importance of this occasion and to enable hon. members to participate in that most important duty—the selection of a leader—I move this resolution, and say to my hon. friends opposite that if during the progress of the convention there are any matters on the agenda of parliament which they feel are of such a controversial nature that they ought not to be discussed in the absence of any of the members of the opposition, I shall do my part to comply with any requests I may receive. It is in that spirit that I move this motion.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION THAT JANUARY 13 BE A GOVERNMENT
DAY

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) moved:

That Monday next, January 13, shall be a government day and the provisions of standing order 15 (3) shall be suspended in relation thereto.

He said: The motion in question is self-explanatory. There are eight days allotted