

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, April 7, 1952

The house met at three o'clock.

## THE BUDGET

### ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS— TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance):** I desire to table copies, in English and in French, of the white paper in connection with the budget, 1952-53.

**Mr. Croll:** May I ask the minister whether the white paper he has tabled is to be printed in *Hansard*? If so, will he make the necessary motion to have that done? I think it is desirable that it should appear in *Hansard*.

**Mr. Abbott:** I was proposing to move tomorrow that it be printed as an appendix to tomorrow's *Hansard*, as has been done in past years. Printed copies will be available for hon. members today and tomorrow. In order to avoid duplication, I thought I might ask the consent of the house to have it printed in tomorrow's *Hansard* together with the budget speech.

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### INCREASE OF QUORUM FROM TWENTY TO THIRTY

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 179, respecting the quorum of the House of Commons.

**Some hon. Members:** Explain.

**Mr. Knowles:** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to increase the quorum of the House of Commons from at least twenty to at least thirty members. By doing so, we shall merely re-establish, to the nearest round figure, the proportion stipulated in 1867, when the Commons had only 181 members as compared with our present membership of 262.

I believe this is the first bill to be based on the authority of the parliament of Canada to amend the constitution of Canada in matters exclusively federal, apart from certain specified exceptions, according to the amendment to the British North America Act of December, 1949.

I should like to say that I am indebted to Dr. Maurice Ollivier, our parliamentary counsel, for his help and advice in drafting this bill. Dr. Ollivier is always most helpful to hon. members who seek his advice, but

because of the extra time and attention he has given to the drafting of this bill, in the light of its constitutional aspect, I felt I should like to thank him publicly at this time for his counsel and assistance.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

## PRIVATE BILLS

### FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 143, respecting the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.—Mr. Cameron.

Bill No. 173, for the relief of Rowena Ann Christena Turner Rae.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 174, for the relief of Jozefa Majcher Wozniak.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 175, for the relief of Helen Semegen Boodanoff.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 176, for the relief of Mary Ann Munro Kelly.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 177, for the relief of Esther Maron Feldman.—Mr. Winkler.

Bill No. 178, for the relief of Joan Alexander Jacobs Epstein.—Mr. Winkler.

## WAR REPARATIONS

### QUESTION AS TO INTERIM PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to the question asked on Thursday last by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) with respect to interim payments for war claims for persons in real need.

As I explained to the house on March 10, a scheme was devised whereby payments would be made to claimants coming under categories laid down in the compensation rules which were established by order in council P.C. 667 of February 4, 1952, and which was published in part II of the *Canada Gazette* on February 27.

Those persons who fall within the rules will receive interim payment if their claims are established; and that is a definite decision.

Thus far, some sixteen persons have made application for interim payment, and those applications are now being processed. Hon. members will understand that this is a fairly complicated problem, and a good deal of detailed information is required before payments can be made. I am advised that the applications are being dealt with as expeditiously as possible.