

*Proposed Legislation*

agreement to the passing of this resolution does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the principles of the legislation which is to follow.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is clearly understood and no advantage will be taken of the indulgence of the house to suggest there was anything more than the desire to see the bill quickly.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is the undertaking which was made originally. Therefore no further undertaking of any kind is necessary.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Exactly.

**Mr. Thompson:** On behalf of this group may I also say that permitting this resolution to go through at the present time does not involve any commitment to or agreement with the bill itself. It will merely facilitate our having the bill before us.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

**Mr. Pickersgill** thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-231, to define and implement a national transportation policy for Canada, to amend the Railway Act and other acts in consequence thereof and to enact other consequential provisions.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**SUPREME COURT ACT**AMENDMENT RESPECTING PAYMENT  
OF COSTS

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-232, to amend the Supreme Court Act (payment of costs).

He said: Mr. Speaker, I introduce this bill because I am opposed to practices which discriminate against any Canadian people whether on grounds of race, creed or colour, or because of educational differences—by the way, I happen to be one of those who do not possess much education and therefore would suffer from this limitation.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Herridge:** Under our system of law every person has the right to appear in person before the courts of justice and tribunals and handle his case personally. However, if a decision is rendered in his favour he may

[Mr. Douglas.]

be unable to be reimbursed his costs, disbursements and reasonable expenses in the same manner as if he had a lawyer handling his case.

The purpose of this bill is to provide that in the Supreme Court of Canada, which is the keystone of our judicial system, the private individual who, after having pleaded his own case, is awarded his costs will be entitled to the same costs as a lawyer handling his own case.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

● (4:10 p.m.)

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**CONSIDERATION OF ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS  
DURING SPECIAL DEBATE

**Mr. Speaker:** Questions.

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it was my understanding that in respect of the agreement given to the introduction of the railway legislation the Prime Minister had agreed that the railway legislation was of an extremely important nature and therefore other business of the house would be suspended until that business had been concluded. But now we are proceeding as though this is a regular session, which I believe is not in keeping with the remarks of the Prime Minister unless he misunderstood the question I asked him. I would like the house leader to give some indication of whether or not the government intends to embark on regular sessional business.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the hon. member knows we are just going through routine proceedings. I assume that in due course, after routine proceedings, we shall get to government orders at which time I gather the legislation in question will be debated. If it is the desire of the house that routine business be suspended today this procedure could be followed, but there has been no such request or suggestion made until now.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I did not understand that the hon. member's remarks were meant to apply to routine proceedings. Perhaps he may want to clarify that. It never occurred to me that the agreement was meant to exclude the answers to order paper questions.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Or anything else.