

*Christmas Adjournment*

because our rights are respected that a message is received about the gentleman usher coming at a certain time. That is announced in the house, and furthermore it is provided in our standing orders that when the Sergeant-at-Arms announces that the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod is at the door Mr. Speaker shall take the chair, whether there be a quorum present or not.

That is what the members of the house decided themselves long ago. As a matter of fact, it has been the practice ever since 1867. Those were the rules of the parliaments of Upper and Lower Canada before 1867, and I would say ever since 1793. Of course in those days it was a different proposition; they had not reached the constitutional level we have now reached. However, we shall not need to discuss this point any further.

I wish to thank the acting leader of the house for his kind words, and also all hon. members for their co-operation and kindness

toward me. I should like to wish each and every one a very happy Christmas and a happy new year.

**Mr. Harris:** As the house will have noticed, January 12 is a Tuesday, and that is government day. We will proceed on that date with the motion by the Minister of Justice for a joint committee of both houses with respect to certain aspects of the Criminal Code; then the resolution in the name of the Minister of Resources and Development with respect to the national battlefields at Quebec; then the resolution in the name of the Postmaster General with respect to the Post Office Act; and then second reading of the housing bill. We shall continue with that until second reading has been completed, later in the week or in the following week, if necessary.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.45 p.m. until Monday, January 12, 1954, at 2.30 p.m.

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END OF VOLUME I