

*Business of the House*

arise in the development programs of postal machinery for our three countries, and that the interchange of ideas will enable each nation to concentrate on those areas in which it is farthest advanced and simultaneously benefit from similar progress in other fields by the other nations concerned.

It is also expected that these discussions will ultimately prove of some help to the technical committee of the universal postal union. However, since this committee of 20 nations was set up only in August 1957, it is not expected to have its first meeting for about a year, and there would seem to be substantial advantage to be gained from these immediate discussions of our common problems.

The net result will be a substantial forward move over the next few years in more effective and modern handling of mail in Canada and the other nations concerned.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****BILL NO. 26, FROM THE SENATE—STATEMENT  
BY MR. SPEAKER**

**Mr. Speaker:** Yesterday a message was received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate had passed the following bill to which the concurrence of this house is desired: Bill No. 26 (Letter J of the Senate) "An act respecting the boundary between the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories", *Votes and Proceedings* No. 18. This bill should have appeared this morning on the order paper under the heading "First reading of Senate public bills" in accordance with standing order 152.

As you know, private bills receive an automatic first reading under the terms of standing order 103, subsection 2. I am afraid this bill was taken to be a private bill and consequently was not put on the order paper. However, this stage of the bill is not debatable, and I trust that the house will be prepared to proceed with it today by consent. This bill stands in the name of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Comtois).

I suggest that after motions have been disposed of the minister give a brief explanation of the circumstances and ask for consent to proceed with first reading. Is it agreeable to the house that this course be followed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will then call first reading of Senate public bills, Bill No. 26, letter J of the Senate, entitled "An act respecting the boundary between the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories".

[Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace).]

**ALBERTA-NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****APPROVAL OF BOUNDARY AS SURVEYED AND  
MARKED**

**Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys)** moved the first reading of Bill No. 26 (from the Senate), respecting the boundary between the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REFERENCE TO RUSSIAN PROPOSAL FOR MEETING  
OF WORLD LEADERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister notice of which I have sent him. In view of the anxieties and threats which overshadow the world, will the Prime Minister take the lead in announcing at once Canada's acceptance of the Russian proposal for a meeting of world leaders to agree to the outlawing of war, the ending of the arms race and the establishment of peaceful co-existence between east and west?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, all of us share the anxieties expressed by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar, and I think all would agree that nothing should be done at this time in any way to increase tension, and that all of us should devote ourselves earnestly toward a peaceful solution of outstanding problems. This Canada has endeavoured to do, both through the United Nations and in other international forums. Above anything else, no nation today should shut the door in any matter that might offer the prospect of any solution or diminution of tensions internationally.

The Soviet leader, while not making a specific suggestion, did state that he believed there should be a meeting of world leaders. All of us would agree that if there was any possibility that such a meeting would be successful we would not hesitate in declaring immediately that Canada would accept such suggestion. But we must not lose sight of the fact that the proposal must be read in the light of the recent refusal of the U.S.S.R. to participate further in the deliberations of the disarmament commission of the United Nations. That is a circumstance that must be considered everywhere in the world by those who are in authority. We must also bear in mind that summit meetings do not necessarily lower international tension, for all will recall that sense of security,