

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NOVA SCOTIA—DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INVESTMENTS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, without having had a supplementary question I should like to pursue a point I was making with the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion when orders of the day were called yesterday. He indicated that a search is still underway for a chief executive officer for this very important Crown agency, the Metropolitan Area Growth Investments, under his jurisdiction in Nova Scotia. Because of the great delays that have plagued this project over two years, can the minister now say with some precision whether a target date has been set when this agency will in fact be operating, and whether under the circumstances its terms of reference and objects are still the same as they were when enabling legislation was passed in 1972? May I say very briefly that I do not believe the minister is the one responsible. I lay the blame at the door of the Premier of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will not comment on the last part of the question other than to say we are at the moment in complete accord as to how we are going to proceed. The objectives remain the same, and what we have now agreed upon is a technique for searching. Earlier this was done through one of the professional placement agencies and did not prove to be a very successful way of going about it. I was serious when I mentioned to the hon. member yesterday what we are doing. A number of nominations are coming in from a variety of sources, and we are looking these over in the hope of finding somebody who will be mutually agreeable and who will also at the same time be competent in terms of these objectives to which the hon. member refers.

● (1520)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East on a supplementary.

METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INVESTMENTS, NOVA SCOTIA—USE OF FUNDS IN ACCOUNT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I apologize for taking the time of the House but since the minister is in an expansive mood with regard to MAGI I wonder whether he will indicate to the people of Nova Scotia and to the Canadian taxpayers to what use the money is to be put that was placed in that account over the years by the federal authority?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I can only assume, without asking a specific question on this matter, that it is in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but I shall be glad to make an inquiry and find out.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Medicine Hat.

Business of the House

Mr. Hargrave: Mr. Speaker, my question was for the President of the Treasury Board but I see he has left the House.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As today will see the conclusion of the budget debate, unfortunately leaving the budget in the same position after the debate as when it started, I should like to ask the government House leader, following our question and answer of last Thursday, what business the government will be proceeding with tomorrow, the next day and the beginning of next week.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, following the conclusion of the budget debate we will call legislation in the following order: Bill C-14, the Federal Business Development Bank bill; Bill C-15, the Indian Oil and gas bill; Bill C-18, the fire losses replacement account bill; Bill S-13, the Alberta-British Columbia boundary bill; and Bill C-25, the environmental contaminants bill.

As soon as the consequent bills are ready, we shall seek concurrence in the notices of Ways and Means with regard to the Customs Tariff and to the Excise Tax Act and I would, therefore, in accordance with Standing Order 60, ask the designation of Orders of the Day to facilitate this.

On Monday, December 2, we shall call bill C-36, the representation bill.

We shall commence consideration of the two budget bills just mentioned on Wednesday, December 4.

Tuesday, December 3 and Tuesday, December 10 shall be allotted days pursuant to Standing Order 58. As I mentioned earlier, the opposition House leaders had informed me some time ago of their willingness to transfer one allotted day from the present supply period to the next one and I suggest that we now make it an order that there be four allotted days pursuant to Standing Order 58 in the supply period ending December 10, 1974 and that there be eight such days in the supply period ending March 26, 1975.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House agreed and is it so ordered?

Mr. Baldwin: In respect of that last particular proposal of the government House leader, I wonder whether we might have further discussion out of which may emerge a committee reference which hon. members of the House seem to keenly desire, namely the question of the debate on the conflict of interest rules. Then, perhaps the government House leader, other House leaders and myself might work out a suitable date to take into account the question of opposition days at the same time.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing to hold that part of my recommendation. Therefore, it is only the designation of the Orders of the Day to deal with the Ways and Means motions that I suggest at this time.