

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INCOME TAX

PROPOSED COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER REFORM

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether we might have consent to revert to motions for the purpose of putting forward a proposal with regard to income tax reform.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Certain discussions have taken place with respect to the possibility of a joint parliamentary committee on income tax reform being established. If the house is generally agreeable, perhaps the following could be made an order of the house:

That a special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons, to be known as the joint parliamentary committee on income tax reform, be appointed to consider government proposals for the reform of the income tax, with powers to report its observations and opinions thereon from time to time, to send for persons, papers and records, to sit during sittings and adjournments of the house, to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the committee;

That 12 members of the House of Commons, to be designated at a later date, act on behalf of the house as members of the said committee, seven of whom shall be required for a quorum;

That when a quorum is not present, the chairman of the said committee be authorized to proceed with meetings for the purpose of receiving and printing evidence; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that house to unite with this house for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems advisable, some of its members to act on the proposed special joint committee.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, perhaps a word is necessary by way of explanation. Why are we to have a committee on income tax, when earlier statements from the government were to the effect that they were concerned with tax reform in general?

Mr. Benson: The white paper will deal with the subject of corporate and personal income tax.

Mr. Woolliams: I should like to raise a point of order with reference to this announcement. The minister is saying, in effect, that it does not matter whether or not there is a quorum, that if one little Liberal is present the government will get its decisions. That is the philosophy behind the announcement. The committees are nothing.

Official Languages

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that the motion is to be put. Is there no agreement, or is there agreement? There is no unanimous agreement.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

PROVISION RESPECTING STATUS AND USE—
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER, ETC.—
REPORT STAGE

The house resumed consideration of Bill C-120, respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Special Committee on the Official Languages Bill.

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan) moved:

That Bill C-120, an act respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, be amended by deleting subclause (4) of clause 40 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"(4) In relation to the appointment and advancement in employment of personnel the duties of whose positions include duties relating to the provision of services by authorities to members of the public, it is the duty

(a) of the Public Service Commission, in cases where it has the authority to make appointments,

(b) of the authority respectively concerned in the cases of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and

(c) of the authority concerned in all other cases, to ensure that, in the exercise and performance of the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed upon it by law, due account is taken of the purposes and provisions of this Act, subject always to the maintenance of the principle of selection of personnel according to merit as required by the Public Service Employment Act or any other Act of the Parliament of Canada respectively applicable to the Canadian Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the authority concerned in all other cases."

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is a plainly worded and easily understood amendment, and I do not propose to take much of the time of the house in presenting it. It is submitted largely to clear up ambiguities which we contend exist in the bill as now drafted, as well as in the amendment submitted to the committee and to the house some time ago.

If we refer to the original Bill C-120, the bill which received first reading on October 17, 1968, we find that clause 9 was apparently considered to cover all the services which the