

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 13, 1953

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### PROCEDURE ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BILLS

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps I should remind the house at this time that at the last session standing order 15 was amended. In previous sessions private and public bills have been called between 8 and 9 o'clock on Tuesdays and Fridays. Under the amendment, private and public bills are called between 5 and 6 o'clock on Tuesdays and Fridays.

### FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

#### MEASURE TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, COLOUR OR RELIGION

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour)** moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 100, to prevent discrimination in regard to employment and membership in trade unions by reason of race, national origin, colour or religion.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF EXISTING STATUTE

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice)** moved the first reading of Bill No. 93 (from the Senate), respecting the criminal law.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

### PRIVATE BILLS

#### FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 94, for the relief of Jane Louttit Dermer.—**Mr. Winkler.**

Bill No. 95, for the relief of Roger Loiselle.—**Mr. Winkler.**

Bill No. 96, for the relief of William Oscar Gilbert.—**Mr. Winkler.**

Bill No. 97, for the relief of George Magner.—**Mr. Winkler.**

Bill No. 98, for the relief of Teodora Szablity Szentirmai.—**Mr. Winkler.**

Bill No. 99, for the relief of Arthur Piche.—**Mr. Winkler.**

63103—591

## DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

### APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister)** moved:

That a select committee be appointed to continue the examination of all expenditure of public moneys for national defence and all commitments for expenditure for national defence since March 31, 1950, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, and in particular, what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided by the government may be effected therein, with power to send for persons, papers and records and to examine witnesses; and that notwithstanding standing order 65, the committee shall consist of twenty-six members to be designated by the house at a later date.

**Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as I was away attending the meetings of the North Atlantic treaty council when the Currie report was presented to this house and discussed on December 15, 16 and 17 I feel that it would be the wish of hon. members, and indeed of others throughout the country, in view of the wide interest attached to this important document, that I should take advantage of the first opportunity of dealing with it on the motion to set up this committee and in the course of my remarks to indicate in support of the Prime Minister (**Mr. St. Laurent**) the reasons why I believe this report should receive the consideration of that committee, if and when it is set up.

In the debate which took place between December 15 when the Currie report was tabled and the Christmas adjournment on December 17, reference was also made to a number of other matters relating to national defence about which I may have something to say on another occasion. But today I intend to confine what I have to say to the Currie report itself and to matters relevant to it.

Before entering into this subject I should like if I may to make a personal reference. For the affairs of the Department of National Defence and the three armed services of Canada I am responsible under the statute under which I was appointed. I have accepted and have endeavoured to discharge that responsibility to the best of my ability. I have no intention of trying to dodge that responsibility. There has not been and there will not be any effort made to find a scapegoat. When we found that there had been wrongdoing, we laid prosecutions. When it appeared, as I said in the house on April 21, that there had been "grave irregularities", I