

*Foreign Exchange Holdings*

Lawrence-St. George was discussing his motion you warned him that he should be careful not to impute motives to anyone. The minister for the last five minutes has been imputing motives. I ask that he be called to order in the same manner as the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George was.

**Mr. Speaker:** With reference to what the hon. member has said, I thought I should caution the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George as a new member of the house with regard to approaching a line of argument or attributing to the minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** I trust I have the floor—any ulterior motive behind the decision and action of the minister yesterday in transferring this motion to the proceedings today. I think all will recognize that that would have been quite improper. In addition, I felt I should caution him that to attribute to parliament a motive in its determination of the rule would also be improper, and I must say that the hon. member was very careful and very proper.

**Mr. Pearson:** Then why caution him?

**Mr. Speaker:** It may be that sometimes a word of wisdom beforehand is of some advantage. With regard to the words that the hon. member for Laurier has attributed to the Minister of Finance, as attributing a motive to the Leader of the Opposition, I regret that I did not hear the name of the Leader of the Opposition from the Minister of Finance. I took it that this was a general charge that has been made, and if we go back to the debate on the speech from the throne I do not think that the hon. member for Laurier, who participated in that debate, if I recall rightly, can say that both sides did not make such statements, and without protest. Therefore unless there is a specific motive attributed to the Leader of the Opposition I do not think that the remarks call for a retraction.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I do not recall that I referred particularly to the Leader of the Opposition. *Hansard* will have to speak for itself in that regard. I did say that I understood from the hon. member that he was speaking for the opposition as a party. If I referred to the Leader of the Opposition, naturally I stand on the words I used, but I do not recall doing so. However, the point on which I was basing my statement largely was the statement made by the hon. member himself when he suggested that the party to which he belongs—perhaps I am paraphrasing slightly but I think this was certainly the effect of his words—had accused the Prime

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Minister of perpetrating a fraud on the Canadian public. I think this is one statement he has made. It is because of that charge and because of the fact, if we refused to accept this motion, it might be misunderstood, and there could be some element of doubt raised with respect to the situation again, that, on behalf of the government, I am accepting the motion of the hon. member.

We could have saved 15 minutes at least, but I did not want to interfere with his speech. I assure the house that I will have this table brought down at the earliest possible date, I hope by the first of next week. When this table is brought down, sir, we will find that the statements of the Prime Minister are entirely substantiated, and I hope this will conclude this discussion. I want to make this clear, too. In doing this, as I said, we are doing it because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the motion, the charges which have been made heretofore. It is not to be construed as a precedent for producing statistics from the bank at any time in the future. So far as I am concerned, this is an end of the matter.

Motion agreed to.

**PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL****REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena)** moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the national productivity council.

He said: I suggest that the acceptance or rejection of motions of this type hinges upon the question of the desirability of producing a particular document. This puts one, in this instance, at a bit of a disadvantage because when the request was made yesterday to have this motion debated there was no indication from the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) as to whether or not he intended to accept or reject the motion. The motion calls for the production of the minutes of the various meetings of the national productivity council. I cannot, therefore, go into the question of the desirability or otherwise of producing the minutes because I have no knowledge of the attitude of the minister in respect of this motion.

Since the establishment of the national productivity council, Mr. Speaker, there have been many references to the fact that it is ineffective in its attempt to accomplish the goals which were set forth when it was established. These references have been made in this house as well. Just recently one of the appointees to that council, namely Mr. Claude Jodoin, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, resigned. The reason given