

Location of new International Airport

protection of records of Canadian business concerns.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is set forth in the brief explanatory note, from which I shall quote:

One of the recommendations of the Watkins Report was that the Parliament of Canada enact legislation to prohibit removal of commercial records and data from business concerns within federal jurisdiction by reason of a foreign court order.

This bill with its four clauses would provide such legislation and to that extent enable firms in Canada to be free from foreign court orders.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGE

MR. WOOLLIAMS—ALLEGED LEAK PRECEDING ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to direct this question to the Minister of Transport, because even though I do not agree with the procedure, it is his day to be in the house, according to the roster. In view of the fact that he is not here and it is such a serious question I would direct it to the Prime Minister.

Did the Minister of Transport pre-tape the announcement concerning the site of the new Montreal International Airport at a certain Ottawa TV studio or anywhere else Saturday, March 22 or any other date prior to his announcement of the same in the house yesterday?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am sorry I do not know the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker. The minister will be glad to answer it when he is here.

Mr. Woolliams: He was supposed to be here today.

An hon. Member: Many of your people are not here today.

Mr. Woolliams: In a few years we will be the government; don't worry. May I put this question to the Prime Minister. Did the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development pre-tape the announcement concerning the site of the new Montreal International Airport at a certain Ottawa TV studio or anywhere else on Sunday March 23 or any other date prior to the announcement yesterday in the house.

[Mr. Mather.]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that minister is not supposed to be here today; but where is the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I respectfully suggest to hon. members that we never achieve very much by referring to our respective attendances and absences.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very serious question of privilege. My question of privilege arises at this moment as a result of questions I put to the Prime Minister and as a result of questions I was prepared to ask ministers, one of whom even according to the Prime Minister was supposed to be here. The answer I received with reference to those questions is nothing. My question of privilege is based on the information I did not get from the ministers or from the Prime Minister. I might mention that a news release this morning over CKGM Montreal and CKEY Toronto said in brief that the Ottawa bureau has learned that information concerning the exact location of the new Montreal International Airport near or at St. Jérôme was leaked by cabinet sources five days before the announcement was made to the Commons.

The Minister of Transport stated in the house yesterday that this was a carefully guarded secret. Yet, says the news release, a studio and four technicians knew of the information and were not sworn to any secrecy, although they were closely guarded by two R.C.M.P. officers. This is a most serious matter so far as government and cabinet secrets are concerned and I suggest, if this news release is true, this is as serious a matter as a budget leak and, if the facts are correct, would call for the resignations of those ministers involved.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: They laugh, Mr. Speaker, but I will read some precedents. They may laugh today but they will cry tomorrow.

● (11:30 a.m.)

Mr. Baldwin: They do not know how to cry.

Mr. Woolliams: It is my intention at the end of my comments on this important and serious question of privilege to move a motion. The question of privilege is based on two propositions: First, that if in fact secret cabinet information was placed on a video tape and recorded by radio personnel prior to