

provisions, the bills were allowed to stand until the next sitting of the House.

The Order being read for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs of Bill C-170, An Act to provide for the payment of benefits in respect of children;

The honourable Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), raised a point of order to the effect that since another bill purporting to amend the Income Tax Act was pending in the Senate, it would be irregular to proceed with Bill C-170 as it too purported to amend the Income Tax Act.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: May I begin by referring to the well known rule to which the honourable Member for St. John's East alluded. The long established practice of the House says that the House should not be asked to pronounce itself on a question in the same session on which the House has already decided or expressed itself, either by negative or positive vote. That rule, of course, applies to legislation which is proposed to the House within a single session. If a particular item of legislation is proposed to the House on which there is a decision, either in favour or against, it is against the rules and long established practice of this Parliament and other parliaments to ask that the House decide again the same question or reconsider the same legislative proposal in the same session. However, so far as I know, no decision has been taken by this House in the current session, which began a few days ago, which would preclude anyone from proposing legislation of the nature before us at present. May I also indicate to honourable Members that there is nothing wrong procedurally with bringing forward two legislative proposals dealing with the same subject. If honourable Members will look at our parliamentary papers they will see that on many occasions, and almost at any time, a number of legislative proposals were before the House dealing with the same subject. Of course, once a decision has been reached on one of those legislative proposals, then the House has decided and, within the same session, and this does not apply to the following session, it would be irregular to ask the House to look at the same legislative proposal in order that there might be a new or renewed debate. That might lead us into the strange situation in which, within the same session, the House might reach two decisions on that proposal, one being contrary to the other. That is the logic behind the long standing practice and rule to which the honourable Member alluded. I do not think it is possible for the Chair to agree that this very valid rule should be extended to the point where it would preclude the consideration of the bill now before us.

Mr. Munro, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That Bill C-170, An Act to provide for the payment of benefits in respect of children, be now read a second time and be referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

And debate arising thereon;

[At 4.00 o'clock p.m., Private Members' Business was called pursuant to Standing Order 15(4)]

(Public Bills)

By unanimous consent, order numbered one was allowed to stand at the request of the government.

The Order being read for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs of Bill C-10, An Act to restrain the use of tobacco;

Mr. Mather, seconded by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre), moved,—That the said bill be now read a second time and be referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

And debate arising thereon;

The hour for Private Members' Business expired.

Changes in Committee Membership

Notice having been filed with the Clerk of the House pursuant to Standing Order 65(4)(b), membership of Committees was amended as follows:

Messrs. Loiselle, Rochon, Breau and Caccia for Messrs. Guilbault, LeBlanc (Rimouski), Prud'homme and Osler on the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

Messrs. Badanai, Gibson, Haidasz, Isabelle, St. Pierre, Hymmen and Langlois for Messrs. Whelan, Whicher, Caccia, Clermont, Groos, Cobbe and Corriveau on the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence.

Mr. Dionne for Mr. Tétrault on the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Returns and Reports Deposited with the Clerk of the House

The following papers having been deposited with the Clerk of the House were laid upon the Table pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), namely:

By Mr. Basford, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council,—Report of the Central Mortgage and Housing Cor-