

*Motions for Papers*

[English]

DIRECTIVES ON DRAFT DODGERS AND  
DESERTERSMotion No. 113—**Mr. Lewis:**

That an Order of this House do issue for a copy of the directive or directives of the Department of Manpower and Immigration regarding draft-dodgers and military deserters.

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration I wish to report as follows. The papers requested in this notice of motion are directives circulated within the department from headquarters to field staff. It has not been the practice to make public such papers because of their confidential character. In view of this perhaps the hon. gentleman would agree to withdraw his notice.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I am afraid not, Mr. Speaker. These directives are policy directives that affect the immigration policy of the government, and therefore should be made public.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate pursuant to Standing Order 48.

INDIANS—DOCUMENT RESPECTING GRANTS  
ISSUED SUBSEQUENTLY TO CIRCULARMotion No. 133—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of any document prepared in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development entitled, or relating to "Grants to Indian Band Councils" subsequent to the issuance of Circular No. 15, dated September 18, 1968, which is entitled "Grants to Indian Band Councils".

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council):** On behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development I would like to inform the hon. member that subsequent to the issuance of circular 15, dated September 18, 1968, entitled "Grants to Indian Band Councils", no additional documents have been issued. Under the circumstances would the hon. member from Skeena consent to withdrawing the motion?

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask how I happened to get one if they have not been issued or are not in existence? I think the minister had better check further.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate pursuant to Standing Order 48. Shall the remaining notices of motions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do so without assessing any blame or accusing anyone of laxity. But I invite the attention of the house to the fact that there are now more than 60 notices of motions for the production of papers that have not yet been called. In addition to that number, at least 20 such motions have been transferred for debate. I understand how this has happened, but the fact of the matter is that this does relate to the public's right to know what is going on, and I think that this matter, like the passport problem, should receive attention.

I wonder whether the government house leader would be willing to initiate discussions through the usual channels to see whether there is something we can do to overtake this backlog?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, may I point out that of these 60 motions to which the hon. member referred, 36 have been put on since May 12. I presume that the hon. member is interested in having the government look into these documents with care, and the departments are doing so.

As to the notices of motions that have been transferred for debate, the rules are well known by the hon. member and his colleagues. There are certain documents that are internal documents; there are others that are privileged. The hon. member may insist, as the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) did, that he is entitled to have them, but the rules of this house are well established. Merely because the hon. member wants a document is no reason why the rules should not be obeyed. In particular there is no reason why the notices of motions should not be transferred for debate.

**Mr. Lewis:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, there is another rule which you invoked a little earlier, namely that a notice of motion is transferred for debate at another time. The government house leader has no right to debate the motion now, as he has done. I know the rules, perhaps not as well as the house leader knows them, but I am aware of them. If he wants to debate the motion now I am ready; otherwise I must say that I object to his remarks.