

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 25, 1966

The house met at 11 a.m.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

OBJECTION RESPECTING PROPOSED DISTRICT OF LIMOILOU, QUEBEC

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty to inform the house that an objection, signed by the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Duquet) and ten others, has been filed with me pursuant to section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, chapter 31, statutes of Canada, 1964-65, to the report of the electoral boundaries commission for the province of Quebec relating to the proposed electoral district of Limoilou.

If the house will agree, I suggest that the text of the objection be printed as an appendix to *Votes and Proceedings* for this day.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (11:10 a.m.)

PRIVILEGE

MR. LAING—DISTRIBUTION OF BILL AMENDING PRESENT LEGISLATION

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Yukon asked me whether in fact a distribution had been made to the council of the Northwest Territories, now in session in Ottawa, of a bill, then in draft form, to amend the Northwest Territories Act. My reply was that I would be extremely surprised if this proved to be the case.

I have to acknowledge that I have been more than extremely surprised, and that distribution was made. I think there may be some small extenuating circumstance in the fact that the bill contains provisions which in effect involve amendments to the constitution of the Northwest Territories, but I would ask no consideration of the house on this basis. I make an apology to the house for this distribution, and I assure hon. members that this sort of thing will not happen again.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): On the question of privilege may I simply say that it is always desirable to make the fullest possible

information available to the members of the councils of both territories, a practice which has been followed only too infrequently in the past. However, in this case a distribution was made prematurely. It may even be that the hon. member for the Northwest Territories might have knowledge of the bill. I make no suggestion that he does, but the possibility is ever present.

In the circumstances, and because of the circulation which the bill has received, I think the minister or the Prime Minister or the leader of the house might give hon. members an assurance that this legislation will now be introduced and tabled at the earliest possible moment so that all in this house might have the same information that has been made available to others, because after all it is a federal statute that we are concerned with.

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS—LOSS OF CONTRACTS BY CANADIAN STAMPING COMPANIES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance and ask him whether the government has received complaints from officials of some 70 Canadian stamping companies relating to the lack of opportunity for Canadian firms to bid on the supply of automobile parts for this year's production, and also whether he has reason to believe that the automobile companies—the big three—are not giving Canadians the right to bid but are in fact transferring this work to American companies in the United States.

What is the government's position in this regard? Will the minister do what he can to assure that the big three, who benefit so greatly from this agreement, will have it made clear to them that Canadian companies should have the opportunity to retain what has been described as millions of dollars worth of contracts as has been the case in the past?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I have received representations from the automobile parts manufacturers along the lines outlined by the Leader of the Opposition. These representations related to my