

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—CLAIM OF
MRS. LILLIAN BATEMAN

Mr. GILLIS moved:

For a copy of all correspondence and memoranda passing between the Department of Labour, unemployment insurance branch, Ottawa, and the unemployment insurance office in Sydney, Nova Scotia and Moncton, New Brunswick, on the claim for unemployment insurance of Mrs. Lillian Bateman, of Sydney, Nova Scotia.

He said: I have the information I desire, and I therefore ask that the motion be dropped.

Motion dropped.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—HALIFAX EXHIBITION
GROUNDS

Mr. ISNOR:

For a copy of all correspondence passed between the mayor or clerk of the city of Halifax and the minister or any official of the Department of National Defence, or any other department, concerning the return of the Halifax forum or the whole, or any portion, of the exhibition grounds, during the years 1944 and 1945.

CANADIAN FLAG

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND
REPORT ON SUITABLE DESIGN

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (for the Prime Minister) moved:

That Messrs. Beaudoin, Blanchette, Castle-den, Emmerson, Gingues, Gladstone, Hackett, Hansell, Harris (Grey-Bruce), Herridge, La-Croix, Lafontaine, Macdonnell (Muskoka-Ontario), McIvor, Reid, Smith (Calgary West), Stanfield, Stirling, Thatcher, Warren, Zaplitny, be appointed to act as members of the Joint Committee of both Houses to consider and report upon a suitable design for a distinctive national flag.

That a message be sent to the Senate to inform Their Honours that the House of Commons has appointed this committee and to request Their Honours to appoint members of the Senate to act thereon with the members of the House of Commons as a joint committee of both Houses.

He said: Before the motion is passed may I say that there is an error in the printing. On November 16 the list of members to comprise the subcommittee to be set up to consider and report upon a suitable design for a distinctive national flag contained these names: MacNicol, Martin, Matthews and McCulloch. These names do not appear under government motions in the routine proceedings of Novem-

ber 19. I want to be sure that these names are included in the motion as passed by this house.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): I should like to ask the mover of this resolution the meaning of the words "appointed to act". The committee is appointed to act. It consists of members of both houses and they are to report upon a suitable design for a distinctive national flag. I understood the minister, when introducing this motion for the Prime Minister, to say in a speech the other day when he made this reference to a committee that the principle of a new Canadian flag had been adopted. Is that right? If this motion is passed, all that the committee will have to do, as I understand it, is to pick a flag out of fifty or sixty designs or crazy quilts, as many of them are. I want to find out the powers of the committee. What are the powers of the House of Commons when the report is presented? I might say to the master of ceremonies, the learned member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie), that I do not agree with him. Sometimes I do; a great many times I do not. Will the House of Commons have power, as they have under our rules and citations, to revise what the committee does, and decide on retaining the present flag, or another flag, or the flag that is flying to-day on the building? I noticed three distinct flags flying on the various buildings on parliament hill to-day. One the red ensign over the tower, one a union jack by Sir John A. Macdonald's monument, and the other at the other front end of this building.

The minister distinctly said in his speech the other day that when this committee is appointed it will have no power to decide whether we should retain the present flag or the flag that is now flying on the peace tower, the flag with the union jack in one top corner, the size of a postage stamp—that is all it is. Those who haul down the union jack will have to answer for it. I should like to find out the powers of the committee under this reference. When the committee meets, the chairman must first of all read the text of the reference. Under the rule by which a committee of parliament is appointed it must stick to the terms of the resolution. It must stay in the pond; it cannot wander out into the lake.

I can tell the house that the majority of the people of Ontario will not put up with this sort of thing. This debate is going to be carried on in the Ontario legislature, and the battle fought all over the province. You will have a union jack election; do not worry about that.

[Mr. Knowles.]