

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: The Clerk Assistant (Administrative and Procedural) read the report as follows:*]

The Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs has the honour to present its fifth report.

Your Committee recommends that its membership be increased by adding thereto the following names: Messrs. Beaudoin, Fox, Howard, Lawrence, Miss MacDonald (*Kingston and the Islands*), Messrs. O'Connor, Olivier and Prud'homme, and that the provisions of Standing Order 65(1) (i) relating thereto be suspended, so that two sub-committees may be formed to begin investigation into the administration of the penitentiary system while the Committee proceeds with consideration of proposed legislation now referred to it, that the quorum of the committee be set at ten members and that the provisions of Standing Order 65(6) relating thereto be suspended.

Your committee further recommends that the said sub-committees be empowered to adjourn from place to place in Canada, accompanied by the necessary supporting staff, for the purpose of visiting penitentiaries.

A copy of the relevant Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (*Issues Nos. 11 and 12*) is tabled.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES JEROME,
Chairman.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House has heard the presentation of the report. It would now be a matter of moving that it be adopted. I take it that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) is so moving, seconded by Mr. Drury—

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I would prevail upon the Chairman of the committee to allow us to look at a certain part of the report overnight before we move concurrence in it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. If there is not unanimous consent, then concurrence in the report cannot be moved now.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to be difficult with my good friend the Chairman of the committee, but I would like to look at that part of the report which requires travel from place to place in Canada. If the rest of the report could be adopted but that—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I gather that there is not unanimous consent. We will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business. The first order of business would be notices of motions for papers.

Regional Economic Expansion
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[*Translation*]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

OFFER OF LOAN TO THE PARK SAMUEL HOLLAND HOTEL OF QUEBEC

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse) moved:

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of the signed agreement and all other documents relating to the offer of a guaranteed loan made by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to the Parc Samuel Holland Hotel of Quebec.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I should like at the outset to thank my good friend, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) for seconding my motion. It shows once more that this Parliament is the assembly of the nation. Notwithstanding political parties, whenever the public good is concerned, we agree.

The object of the motion of which I am the sponsor is to have an order directing the executive to produce, in this House, which is the supreme authority in this country, the documents specifically concerning the signed agreement between the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, of the first part, and the management of the Parc Samuel Holland Hotel of Quebec, of the second part.

I really cannot understand why the government appears reluctant to reply to information requests made by hon. members, according to the Standing Orders of the House.

Logically, it seems to me that hon. members' privileges should be taken into account by the executive. The credits that the ministers are authorized to spend are voted by Parliament, therefore by the members. The legislation authorizing the expenditure of public funds is also voted by the members.

Why deny them this right of looking into the use of funds they have voted to such or such department? I know that in general, the civil service decides whether this or that plan submitted under an act must be accepted or rejected. I understand that the minister cannot do everything by himself, however he is responsible before Parliament and if he refuses to answer requests for information coming from the members of this House, how can these members be informed and play their role of supervising?

The motion being considered is to the effect that the House orders the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson) to table a document that would allow us to verify whether the act governing this department has been complied with.

The Department of Regional Economic Expansion is one of the most important in the federal administration; we need only look at the budget to be convinced of this. Moreover, we know that the former minister of this department has been the target of many criticisms. Were they all warranted? I hope not.

To remedy the concerns and the numerous requests for information with which the members are flooded, the executive power would have to be more flexible and generous toward information requests coming from hon. members. The work of parliamentarians becomes more demanding and more tiresome. News bulletins and comments by so-called experts are coming from everywhere. Men and women in public life have fewer chances than