

No. 174

# JOURNALS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1971

2.00 o'clock p.m.

### PRAYERS

The honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) rising on a point of order to the effect that he should be permitted to place before the Chair sufficient fact and precedents to warrant the putting to the House of a motion for the establishment of an impeachment committee;

And debate arising on the point of order;

### RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Peace River has given the Chair notice of his intention to raise a point of order today and he indicated that he would propose a motion that was akin to but different in some respects from the motion which now appears on the Order Paper standing in his name. I listened with great interest to the submissions which were made for the assistance of the Chair by the honourable Member for Peace River, by the President of the Privy Council, by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and, as I said in French a moment ago, to the honourable Member for Lotbinière. I am wondering whether these arguments were helpful in all respects and in every detail for the Chair, because what I have to consider is strictly the procedural aspect. Some of the arguments given to the Chair related, perhaps, more to the moral

issues as to whether there should be a debate on this very important issue and on the duty of the Chair to allow the House the opportunity or to give the House the opportunity of discussing this important matter. With respect, I suggest to honourable Members that it is not for the Chair to take this kind of decision. I recognize that the Chair has a responsibility to communicate with representatives of parties when it is felt that perhaps it would be helpful for all concerned if the Members of this House could have a special debate. I have taken this initiative in certain instances but, with respect again, it seems to me that this is not what has to be ruled upon at this time.

I have noted the suggestion made by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre. It will not be overlooked.

This having been said, I return to the strictly procedural aspect of the matter. Honourable Members know in what way a motion can be brought before the House for consideration. There is really no purpose to be served by my going into this question. It is well known to honourable Members. It is suggested at this time by the honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) that there is another way, which is not too familiar to me and to some honourable Members, of bringing a matter