

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West): That is my suggestion.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On the point of order that was raised by the hon. member for Middlesex West (Mr. Thomas)—

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Yes; the hon. member for Middlesex West asked that the official record of this house, namely *Votes and Proceedings*, be corrected. I submit that is asking Your Honour to change the records of the house which are published over your signature.

I would draw your attention to the fact that as reported at page 1726 of *Hansard* of December 2, 1957, Your Honour asked the house whether the hon. gentleman had leave to put the question and, more than 20 members having risen, Your Honour gave him leave to do so. I submit that this is in keeping with the practice of the house, and that that having been done it is taken as read that the hon. member, having been given leave, has moved the adjournment of the house. I submit that the record in *Votes and Proceedings* for that date as published over Your Honour's signature is correct.

Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West): If I may, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: I have heard both the point of order and the comment on it. As hon. members will recall, the motion was not actually put formally and the debate continued to a point where objection was taken that it had not been put. I ruled that the house had proceeded as though it had been put. In order to keep the record clear there must be some note of what we were discussing; and in order to keep the Speaker honest, we must have a record of what took place indicating that we were discussing some question before the house.

If any hon. member wishes to have it expressed otherwise than as the Clerk has put it and as I have endorsed it, I shall be glad to consider an alternative expression. Otherwise I think we might consider the matter closed.

Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West): I would request that an alternative statement be used.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): This is the usual practice of the house. The hon. gentleman is a new member. I think since I have been here I have known of someone to rise and ask permission to move the adjournment of the house and have permission granted; and I do not remember, except on very few occasions, that the member when

[Mr. Speaker.]

he began his speech said, "I move the adjournment of the house". I think this is the usual practice. It may be a rather slipshod practice, but we indulge in it as we do in some other slipshod practices.

TRADE

LEAD AND ZINC—U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION HEARINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce or, in his absence, to the parliamentary assistant. Could the minister tell the house of any developments in the United States tariff commission hearings relative to proposed increases in the tariff on lead and zinc? What official of the department or member of the government, if any, is representing the government at this hearing?

Hon. J. M. Macdonnell (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): The United States tariff commission has recently completed its public hearings on lead and zinc. It is understood that when they have completed their studies they will make a report to the President of the United States.

Representatives of the Canadian mining and smelting industries appeared before the United States tariff commission to present their case. The Canadian government did not take part in the proceedings of the United States tariff commission, but makes its representations directly to the United States government. I understand that strong representations on this subject were made to the United States government very soon after the present Canadian government assumed office and that the matter was later discussed during the visit of Canadian cabinet ministers to Washington in early October.

Mr. Byrne: I have a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether these governmental negotiations are being carried on at the present time? Are they following the matter up to the very last in order that this drastic action may not be taken?

Mr. Macdonnell: I have given a considerable amount of detail as to what took place. If the hon. gentleman wishes to carry the matter down to the present moment I think I shall have to take his question as notice and give him further information later.

REPORTED PURCHASES BY ROUMANIAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of