

Motions for Papers

ject only to the consent of the government of British Columbia. If the House is agreeable perhaps the order could go subject to the approval of the government of British Columbia with regard to the tabling of these minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA-CANADA LIAISON COMMITTEE ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Motion No. 34—Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of the Minutes of the British Columbia—Canada Liaison Committee on the Columbia River from 1958 until the signing of the Treaty with the USA in January 1961.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, earlier this session I raised a point of order regarding five notices of motions for the production of papers, numbers 36 to 40 inclusive, which are of a vintage long in advance of the commencement of this session. I understood that the parliamentary secretary was going to inquire about these motions. Could he now advise when we might expect them to be dealt with?

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I would hope by next Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions. Is the hon. member for Yukon rising on a point of order?

Mr. Nielsen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Because of the importance of the matter raised by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall), I wonder whether the House would be disposed to give unanimous consent to refer the item listed under notices of government motions today, the report of the joint study group on basic rate of pensions, tabled on January 31, 1973, to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, consent being required to refer it immediately rather than waiting?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether that is a point of order. I think it would have to be charged to the hon. member as a question.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that we hold this over to decide whether it might be useful to have a debate on this motion for at least a day.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

EFFECT OF POLICIES OF MINISTER OF FINANCE ON JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a question for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister any explanation, be it fear of inflation or something else, why he has not adopted a more expansionary stance when it has become apparent that the target he set in his budget last May for job creation has not been met? I ask this question in view of the minister's statement at that time that—"the growth of jobs should be considerably larger than last year", whereas in fact figures issued by Statistics Canada indicate that the number of jobs created in 1971 was 334,000 as against 220,000 in 1972, about one-third short of the minister's target.

• (1430)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will not object to the minister replying to the hon. member's question, but it seems to me that a question of this kind, while being of interest to all members, is so wide in its nature that it invites a somewhat lengthy reply which normally should be made on motions. The Chair will recognize the minister for the purpose of replying as briefly as possible to the question posed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has really brought up a debating point which I will deal with on another occasion. Job creation in terms of jobs created has been very encouraging this year, only outdistanced still by a rapidly increasing labour force which we have to expect for the next two or three years.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I have to ask the Minister of Finance whether he feels he has met his target when he is 114,000 jobs short of it. Does he also feel he has met his target when he predicted an increase in the rate of growth in 1972 of between 6 per cent and 6.5 per cent whereas indications now are that the real growth figure will be in the range of 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman does not know at the moment, nor do I, until the fourth quarter figures are available. We will not know until we get the final figures on the national accounts which will be published three or four weeks from now, and even after that they are subject to revision. The hon. gentleman is no more sure of his figure of 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent than I am of 6 per cent to 6.5 per cent at the moment.

Mr. Hees: What about jobs, John?

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he is aware that ministers of finance who take this attitude toward jobs are also subject to revision?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!