Commission investigate the RCMP in the narrow sense of the terms of reference, but also that it should be able to inquire into the question of political accountability, both in terms of general procedures and of the course followed in 1972 and in the alleged investigation which took place in 1976.

If Your Honour rules I have a prima facie case of privilege, I shall be happy to move a specific motion.

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. member will realize, I am sure, what he has done, in effect, is to express disagreement with the terms of reference of the Royal Commission and is questioning the value of the inquiry announced yesterday by the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox).

Despite the importance of the subject matter, that is a straight matter of debate and discussion. This subject was taken up extensively during the question period and it would be an unprecedented extension of the definition of privilege to extend the umbrella of privilege to cover a matter of straight disagreement of the sort the hon. member has raised.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to apologize to the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo who asked me a question earlier concerning a recently published report. I was listening to the simultaneous interpretation and I misunderstood his question. In fact, the document is now being studied by the Department of Agriculture and, in some cases, its recommendations will be accepted by the department.

[*English*]

Mr. Beatty: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the clarification which has been forthcoming from the parliamentary secretary. I must tell him, however, that I intend to ask the minister tomorrow, in the question period, for the information I sought today. I will also ask about the bilingualism program, moonlighting and the serious indictment of the senior staff of the Corporation including the allegation that "corporate senior leadership is widely viewed at all levels as being less than adequate, this feeling being more pronounced and widespread the higher one probes the corporate ladder." Perhaps the parliamentary secretary could ensure that whoever is answering for the department tomorrow is prepared to deal with that question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A couple of days ago, the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawrence) contended, by way of a point of order, that the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) should be compelled to table a document following an argument put forward by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) that the minister, having quoted from a letter, should be required to table it. The hon. member for St. John's East was satisfied when the minister tabled the letter, but the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham then pointed out, by way of a further submission to the Chair, that the letter contained a reference to certain enclosures and that the enclosures had not been tabled by the minister, leaving the tabling incomplete. I indicated then that if there were any

further arguments on the point I would hear them at this time, so if there are any hon. members who wish to address the Chair and advance further argument on the point I will hear them now. If not, I will make a ruling perhaps tomorrow or Monday.

• (1510)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Fifth report (supplementary) of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications—Mr. Campbell.

Second report of Standing Committee on Public Accounts entitled "The Polysar Report"—Mr. Lawrence.

Second report of Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts—Mr. Douglas (Bruce-Grey).

[*Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I intend to table, with the permission of the House, the annual report, financial statements and auditor's report for the operations of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for the fiscal year 1976-77. In so doing, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the financial statements reveal an operating deficit of $180 million. All but $10 million of this is accounted for by provision for projected losses associated with existing contracts running over the course of this and the next several years. While the full magnitude of the losses and their timing is uncertain, the company, with the concurrence of the auditors, was of the opinion that a conservative approach should be taken. Therefore full provision for possible losses has been made in the statement for the year just ended.

In assessing this report, hon. members should reflect on the nature of the nuclear energy industry in which Canada chose some years ago to be a major participant. The industry is made up largely of a few major corporations having immense resources and technical competence and competing fiercely in the international market. The objective has been to seek the broadest possible markets, thereby staking out a preferred position for future sales to maintain a continuing workload for large, highly technical design and engineering staffs.

With the success of the Pickering generating station, AECL emerged abruptly from its research and development activity to compete in this difficult international market. Foreign sales