

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 27, 1969

The house met at 11 a.m.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, June 27, 1969

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Gérald Fauteux, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 27th day of June at 12.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
Louis-Frémont Trudeau
Brigadier General
Assistant Secretary
to the Governor General.

PROCEDURE

NOTICE OF OBJECTION TO MOTION IN NAME OF MINISTER

Mr. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order at this time because this is the proper time to take at least a preliminary objection. It deals with a notice of motion appearing in yesterday's *Votes and Proceedings* standing in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) for Monday next.

My objection is such that we will be arguing at the appropriate time that this motion should not be put. I must raise the point in a very limited way without in any sense arguing about the merits.

The motion of the President of the Privy Council involves a duplication of the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair), the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, for the adoption of a report of the committee. The minister's motion involves two changes, but apart from these changes it is identical to the motion of the hon. member. I wish to mention only one change.

Under the proposed Standing Order 75(b) the majority of the parties may work out the agreement as to the allocation of time. The order proposed by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) provides, "a majority including the government". In other words, there cannot be a majority unless the government is part of that majority.

My objection, Mr. Speaker, is based on the fact that this constitutes anticipation of a motion with which this house is at least partially seized. The report of the committee has been tabled. The motion for concurrence has not been put, but it has been stood on several occasions by the hon. member who is the chairman of the committee.

• (11:10 a.m.)

The motion standing in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) will in effect block the hearing of the motion which a committee of this house, through its chairman, has brought before the house, and I submit there are ample precedents to warrant Your Honour's holding that this is improper and should not be done. I will renew my argument before the motion is actually put.

I only add this, Mr. Speaker, that if the government can at any time through a variation of a committee report, by a motion like that of the President of the Privy Council, prevent the discussion of that report, then our so-called committee system will be in a much sordid state even than it appears to be at present.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) I rise merely for the purpose of entering a caveat with respect to this matter. I agree with my colleague that the time to argue it is perhaps on Monday or Wednesday, or whenever the matter comes before the house; but since we are aware of the government notice of motion that is on the order paper I believe we should draw Your Honour's attention to any objections we have at this time.

The hon. member for Peace River has referred to the rule of anticipation. May I just read one paragraph from citation 131 in Beauchesne's fourth edition, which is as follows:

In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of *anticipation*, regard shall be had by Mr. Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the house within a reasonable time.

There is another paragraph of some length which I need not read at this time. However, I would point out that the motion of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) is on the order paper in a place where it can be