February 17, 1970

Mr. Hees: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if the ruling which you have made in your wisdom is allowed to stand now, any future government is given the right to treat matters of great importance to Parliament and to the country in this way, and I feel—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is not raising a new question of privilege. If I am to remain Speaker of this House I cannot allow hon. members simply to disregard decisions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I see around me 262 members who would be better Speakers than I am, but for the moment I stand in this place and hold from hon. members the responsibility to be the Speaker of this House. I have made a decision. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings has always been one of those who have supported the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I seek his assistance.

Mr. Hees: I have always supported your decisions, Mr. Speaker, and I accept this one. I was about to appeal to Your Honour's sense of fairness and ask you not to make your final decision now but to delay it for a few hours for consideration, as has been done in the past. Whenever you make your decision, I and my hon. friends will accept it.

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. member will recognize, this is a point which has been raised very often. If it were a new point, perhaps the Chair would not be justified in making an immediate judgment. But it is a point which has been raised on numerous occasions—not only this year, not only last year, but on many occasions—and the decision has always been the same. While there may be a grievance there is not a question of privilege, and I feel bound by the decisions of my worthy predecessors and by the earlier rulings I myself have made.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I rise in my usual non-controversial way to make a statement which I think has been agreed upon in connection with the business of the House for the balance of the present week.

The first item today will be as announced previously, the resumed debate on second reading of the bill to amend the National

COMMONS DEBATES

Motion to Adjourn

Parks Act, to be followed by the resumed debate on second reading of the oil and gas conservation amendment. For tomorrow we would call the report stage of the bill to amend the Company of Young Canadians Act and Thursday would be an opposition day under the auspices of the Ralliement des Créditistes—the Social Credit Rally. On Friday we would take up the third reading of the Company of Young Canadians bill if it has not been passed on the previous day, to be followed by the report stage of the International Development Research Centre bill.

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

TABLING OF ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1969

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table copies in English and in French of the annual review of the Canadian International Development Agency for 1969.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to present a non-controversial motion to the House. I ask leave, seconded by my hon. friend from Sainte-Marie, to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the postal slowdown in the city of Montreal which has crippled mail service, a concern which is within the administrative responsibility of the government of Canada and which has presently reached crisis proportions.

• (2:30 p.m.)

May I simply state that I am moving this motion for what I think are obvious reasons. Great concern has been expressed in many quarters at the minister's mishandling of the dispute which began on February 2 and is already imposing costly burdens on mail users in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition for interrupting his statement. I know we are operating under relatively new Standing Orders, but the