Airport Ground Transportation

that committee and that they will make a decision in this regard.

● (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to comment on this motion. I agree completely with the hon. member for St. John's East in respect of his reservations about giving unanimous consent. We have now given unanimous consent that this subject matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

In the past month this committee has had ample opportunity to sit. It has not sat to consider the matters that were put before it and has not brought down a report on its trip to Labrador and northern Quebec. Since that trip there has been an airplane crash at Labrador City which could well indicate that there is a great need for the Department of Transport to provide better services at that airport. During last year's sittings of the committee evidence was heard with regard to the Great Slave Lake Railway claims. I think these two matters particularly should be dealt with first.

I do not in any way wish to suggest that the complaints of many citizens of Montreal against the Murray Hill taxi operation from Dorval airport to downtown Montreal should be set aside for any length of time. I do suggest, however, that there are other important matters before the committee. It is a question of priority with us on this side of the House. We believe that those matters which came up first should be dealt with first. Perhaps the Government House Leader and the committee chairman will see that these matters are dealt with in that order. If they do, we will do our best to facilitate the work of the committee.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the discussion on this point should not proceed further. It seems to me hon. members are attempting to debate the order of business of a committee. If I recollect correctly what occurred yesterday, it seems to me the argument put forward for consideration by the Chair was that these matters ought to be left to the committee to decide. If hon. members were correct yesterday, as I thought they were, they are equally correct today. I believe these matters should be considered by the committee and not by the House at this time.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

INCOME TAX

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND SWEDEN

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (for the Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-156, to implement a supplementary income tax agreement between Canada and Sweden.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

HEALTH AND WELFARE

EFFECTIVENESS OF HOSPITAL PLANS OPERATED BY PROVINCES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I thought I saw the Minister of National Health and Welfare in the House a moment ago. Now that he has returned I should like to ask him, in view of certain remarks he made yesterday in Winnipeg, whether it is his position and the position of the government that the hospital plans operated by the provinces are generally inefficient in terms of operation and particularly in terms of cost control?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I did not say they were generally inefficient.

Mr. Stanfield: I did not say the minister said that.

Mr. Woolliams: Another misquote.

Mr. Munro: No, I do not think it was even stated in the press.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro: Perhaps the hon. member cannot read the press very accurately, but I did say—and I think it is acknowledged by many in the field including many representatives of the provinces—that there are very sizeable areas within the whole hospital structure in the provinces where substantial waste could be eliminated, and it is one of the purposes of the meeting next week between myself and the provincial Ministers of Health to study the reports we have and try to isolate these areas to see what can be done about them.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question. As I interpret the minister's answer, he