

under Standing Order 26, the Speaker is required to have regard to a number of factors. These are specified in sections 5 and 16 of the relevant rule. In particular the matter proposed for discussion must be one which calls for immediate and urgent consideration. The Chair must also have regard to the probability of the matter being brought before the house within reasonable time by other means.

In this instance the proposal is that the house be given an opportunity to debate a question of undoubted national interest on an urgent basis because the right hon. Prime Minister will be engaged in discussions with the President of the United States on Monday next. The business announced for the rest of the week would not provide an opportunity for such a debate.

It seems to me on reflection that this might well be the type of situation where the standing order should operate, so as to permit debate on a national issue in advance of anticipated events. I am therefore prepared to put the motion to the house: Has the hon. member leave to move a motion for the purpose of discussing the matter stated by the hon. member?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The debate on the proposed motion will stand over until 8 o'clock p.m. this day.

• (2:20 p.m.)

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, would you kindly call notice of motion No. 76?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[*English*]

CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING BILINGUAL COMMISSIONAIRES IN NATIONAL MUSEUM

Motion No. 76—Mr. Dinsdale:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of (a) the letter from the Clerk of the Privy Council dated October 17, 1968, sent to departmental heads and dealing with the implementation of Clause 9 of the Official Languages Bill (b) the correspondence from Mr. André

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Motions for Papers

Ouellette, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of State, relating to the matter of bilingual Commissionaires (c) the quarterly report of the General Secretary of the National Museums of Canada, Mr. C. J. MacKenzie to the January meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Museums Corporation.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this motion calls for the tabling of three documents.

The first part involves a letter sent by the Clerk of the Privy Council to all departmental heads.

The second part deals with correspondence originating from my own office.

The third part is in connection with a confidential report by the General Secretary of the National Museums of Canada to the Board of Trustees of the Museums Corporation.

I understand that it has always been a practice of this house to consider documents of this nature as confidential. Consequently, it would not be advisable for me to agree to the proposed motion. Under these circumstances, I must ask the hon. member to be kind enough to withdraw his motion.

At any rate, I would like to suggest that this is a matter of principle which has nothing to do with the contents of the documents concerned.

[*English*]

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to have permission to have this matter transferred for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that it shall be transferred for debate?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

DISCONTINUANCE OF CHURCH AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Motion No. 85—Mr. Orlikow:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all letters received by the Postmaster General from churches, professional organizations, trade unions, co-operatives, credit unions and private organizations, indicating that as a result of the increase in postal rates they intend to discontinue or curtail their publications.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, at the request of the government perhaps this motion might stand.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.