

Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in treating the House of Commons with such arrogant indifference.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am one who admires those who sit opposite who are parliamentarians, such as the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen), but today the Prime Minister of Canada treated this House with an arrogance that is indescribable and unbelievable. He ought to come back and apologize to parliament.

● (1522)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will realize at once that the whole issue of the length of questions and answers and of the decorum of members during the question period is my primary concern. I think we all feel the strain of the uncertainty under which we are operating at present. Whether or not the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is on his way to the Governor General, I hope that whatever happens in the next day or so will inject some certainty into the proceedings which will force my hand a little bit. All hon. members know that Friday's question period was a similar experience—very few, very long questions responded to by very long answers.

The difficulty is neither on one side nor the other, nor is the lack of decorum. On both days we had the spectacle of members shouting at each other from one side to the other, equally on one side and the other, and the curious spectacle of members shouting during a question or during an answer, telling the others not to be so impolite during the other's intervention, and so on. All this was contributed to considerably by the tension which invariably arises in the uncertain circumstances in which we find ourselves. I hope that some certainty will be injected in the next day or so, so that we do not go on in this way for too long.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

On the Order: Motions:

April 3, 1978—Mr. McGrath—That the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, presented to the House on Wednesday, March 22, 1978, be concurred in.

Mr. James. A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, before you call that motion I would like to suggest to the House, given the importance of that report, that the House might be agreeable to setting aside time today during the hour normally set aside for private members' business between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., as this report deals with the subject matter of ten private members' bills. If the House were so disposed to setting aside the hour, I am sure there would be an equal

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disposition on the part of those who are interested to put the report through in an hour. I wonder if the House leader could react to that suggestion.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, normally I would agree to the suggestion made by the hon. member. However, I understand that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford), who wished to make some observations in the course of the debate, is not present, and therefore I would consider deferring the request until later in the week when the Minister of Justice could be present, if that were agreeable.

Mr. McGrath: It is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, if the House leader could give the House the assurance that there will be time to deal with this. He told the House that he was relaxed, and I believe him. Now perhaps he could relax the rest of us and tell us that we will be able to deal with this report later on this week.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Since the President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) is at a loss for words on a bill that is not very important—

Mr. MacEachen: It is a committee report.

Mr. Alexander: —I should like to refer to Bill C-46 relating to the discounting of overpayments of tax.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) was dealing with the motion which stands in his name. Before going on to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander), perhaps we could first consider questions on the order paper.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 787, 1,296, 1,303 and 1,403.

[Text]

WEST COAST OIL PORTS ENQUIRY

Question No. 787—**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):**

1. Was the West Coast Oil Ports Enquiry funded through the Estimates and, if so (a) under what vote (b) in what amount (c) how many persons received payments and what are their names?

2. What salaries, allowances and/or other emoluments were paid to members of the Enquiry?

3. What funds were made available to interested intervenors to prepare their interventions and, in each case, what was his/her name and the amount received?

4. What expertise was hired or contracted for, by the Enquiry, in the specialist area of (a) tankers (b) oceanography (c) superports and, what amount was paid to each individual or firm hired?