

No. 117

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1975

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

Mr. Sharp, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, laid upon the Table,—Copies of Order in Council P.C. 1975-879, dated April 22, 1975, appointing Robert Broughton Bryce, Esquire, a Commissioner under Part I of the Inquiries Act to inquire into and concerning the concentration of corporate power in Canada. (English and French).—Sessional Paper No. 301-4/110.

The House resumed consideration of the report stage of Bill C-44, An Act to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Salaries Act and the Parliamentary Secretaries Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

And on the point of order raised as to the validity of certain amendments made in the Standing Committee to the Bill and whether the House should proceed with consideration of the report stage;

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) raised a point of order in connection with Bill C-44. The importance of the point of order was amply demonstrated by the rather full

discussion which took place in the House and, in addition, I hope, by my efforts to come to a decision by eight o'clock. That was not possible, but as a result of further study and examination of the question I am now able to inform the House of my decision on the matter.

The procedural questions raised in connection with some of the amendments made to the Bill in the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates are important inasmuch as they involve two or three fundamental principles of our procedure, not least of which, of course, is the question of the financial initiative of the Crown. Another question involves the relationship between proceedings in a standing committee and the Chair, and the third involves the relationship between the committee and report stages on legislation.

Dealing with the first point, namely the financial initiative of the Crown, it is obviously one of our most basic and fundamental procedural principles that only a Minister of the Crown may originate legislation which proposes a charge upon the revenue, and then only when that legislation is accompanied by a recommendation from the Governor General. No amendment can exceed the terms of that recommendation regardless of by whom it is moved, and no action taken by the House, by any Member of the House, by any standing committee, and