

on the order paper. We do not get the information we request and we have to ask the question again.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I do not want to debate the matter, but may I ask the hon. gentleman to table the letter?

**Mr. Nielsen:** I have no objection to tabling the letter. The document I have is a copy of—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

**Mr. Nielsen:**—a letter written by an officer in charge of Canadian affairs at Washington.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is certainly not the time to indulge in a lengthy debate over a question of privilege, upon which I assume the minister rose. It seems to me this is a rather useless type of debate at this time, and I suggest we stop right now and get on with the business of the house.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The minister has asked me to table the letter. I have said I have no objection to tabling the letter, but in view of the decisions which have been made by Your Honour, and the objections which have been taken by hon. members and ministers on the other side in respect of tabling a certain document, particularly one produced by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce, I am rather surprised at this request. However, I have no objection.

[Later:]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, has it been considered that the letter which I produced has been tabled? If not, with unanimous consent and at the request of the minister I would ask that the letter be tabled.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the house give unanimous consent to the tabling of this copy of a letter, as I understand it?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Now that he has had an opportunity to read the letter which has been tabled he will notice that the officer in charge of Canadian affairs in the United States state department said on the second page of the letter that the contents thereof reflected official Canadian policy. Can the minister say whether Mr. Carlson is correct in that regard?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have already dealt with this point, and I believe my answers today and on other days clearly indicate

that the Canadian government declares policy, not an official in the foreign office of another country.

### Question of Privilege

### PRIVILEGE

MR. GREGOIRE—OFFICE ACCOMMODATION  
OF OPPOSITION GROUP LEADERS

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to rise on a question of privilege which affects the privileges of the members of our party in this corner of the house.

We found out, after inquiry, that two of the three leaders of political parties recognized by courtesy of the house as opposition parties, in other words, the three minor parties, have each a suite of three offices in parliament.

Since the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) is the leader of a political party in the house and still has only one office, I feel, Mr. Speaker,—

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is of course my duty to determine whether there is a *prima facie* case of privilege and I have not the slightest hesitation in saying there is no privilege in the question raised by the hon. member. He has discussed this several times with me. This is a question of administration, and if there are not sufficient offices to distribute, I do not know what anyone can expect the Speaker to do unless he vacates his own.

This is purely a question of administration. The hon. member knows this, having discussed it with me, having sent me letters to this effect, and he also knows we are doing our utmost to correct any inequalities and make sure the different leaders of the different groups, if I may use that term, are treated impartially, fairly and on the same basis.

### AGRICULTURE

REFERENCE OF CERTAIN REPORTS TO STANDING  
COMMITTEE

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, in compliance with the request by the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson), the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) and one or two other hon. members opposite, a request which I took to the government this morning, I would be prepared now if I had unanimous consent to move, seconded by Mr. Hays:

That the following reports, namely, 1, the report of the Department of Agriculture for Canada for the year ended March 31, 1963; 2, report of the agricultural stabilization board for the year ended March 31, 1963; 3, report for 1962 of the board of grain commissioners for Canada; 4, report of the Canadian wheat board for the crop year ended