

*Motions for Papers*

Canadians, may I ask the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether he intends to answer this question in the near future, since I really want to get an answer in this matter.

**Mr. Comtois:** Mr. Speaker, I take the hon. member's question as notice and I will inform the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion of the hon. member's comments.

[English]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In view of the statement the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) made last night with respect to Information Canada and the desire of the government to make information available to members and the public, I wonder whether the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) might answer question No. 1849 which I have had on the order paper for almost three months.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I have prepared answers to the questions that relate to my department but several departments are involved. I think the entire answer will be ready soon.

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**MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

[Translation]

**Mr. J.-Roland Comtois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall notices of motions for the production of papers stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

On April 18, 1973, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 3424, notice of motion No. 203 for the production of papers was agreed to by the House. This morning, I checked with the distribution office and was told that these documents have not been tabled as yet.

Mr. Speaker, I was informed last week that these returns are in the hands of some people of the township of Taschereau. Therefore, I strongly protest against this way of proceeding and ask that these returns be tabled as soon as possible, in order to be available to hon. members in accordance with the order adopted on April 18.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

**ENERGY****PRESENTATION OF DATA BY GOVERNMENT—REASON FOR METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION**

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In light of the confirmation of the Prime Minister on June 20 that the government's energy statement this week will only be "a presentation of all relevant data rather than a policy proposal", will the minister inform the House why public servants in his department have prepared a 30-point public relations program on the matter entitled "Public Relations Program on Energy Policy in Canada" and have even arranged for Brinks trucks to help with the minister's distribution problems throughout the country?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The documents in question run close to 700 pages and deal with the full range of the energy problems in Canada. Because of the possibility that some part of this information could have an impact on the markets during the course of the day when the markets are open and because of the desirability to get copies in the hands not only of the provincial governments, but interested individuals right across Canada, we have adopted this practice under the most secure circumstances possible of distributing the documents right across the country.

**Mr. Stevens:** In light of the cabinet directive of April 10 that the report be absolutely neutral and not portray any policy preferences the minister may have, will the minister explain why public servants and the minister's staff are involved in preparing for follow-up conferences and public meetings and appearances, on "Cross Country Check-Up", "Under Attack", "Week End", "View Point", "Canada A.M." and "Tuesday Night" for the minister? In short, what will the minister do for an encore if and when he has an energy policy to announce?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, without wanting to criticize my own public servants, I must say that nothing they could do in preparing the public for the receipt of this document would be quite as effective as the announcement the hon. member has just made on my behalf.

**Mr. Stevens:** According to the information document I have referred to, Statistics Canada will be asked to do a survey that will provide a feedback on the effectiveness of the information program, not on people's attitudes with respect to the energy issue in Canada. Can the minister explain why such a feedback is necessary and has it in fact been requisitioned?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, one of the essentials of an effective energy policy is to have a good