

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 12, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

MR. ASSELIN—CORRECTION OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Reporting on an address I delivered yesterday to members of Ottawa's Richelieu Club, the press quoted me as having said that resolving of constitutional problems should take place within two months.

I want to correct this error because, in fact, this is what I said: "If, within a few months, I would say two years at most, there is no sign of action in the constitutional domain—"

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this correction is to further clarify my position on the subject I was dealing with.

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[English]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate to the effect that the Senate has passed Bill S-6, an Act to amend the Anti-Dumping Act, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE, WITH AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT AND EVIDENCE ADDUCED

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions through the usual channels and there is general agreement and, hopefully, unanimous agreement, concerning the following motion:

That the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 1968 and the Auditor General's Report thereon and the evidence adduced in consideration thereof in the previous session be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Mr. Baldwin: The discussions have been fruitful. We agree.

Mr. Speaker: The discussions having been fruitful and hon. members having heard the motion proposed by the Minister of Agriculture, is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES ON OPPOSITION SUPPLY MOTION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I report a second fruitful discussion. It has to do with the time limits on speeches in the debate which will take place later today on the motion that will be moved by my hon. friend from York South.

The agreement among the parties is that the mover of the motion and the principal speaker on behalf of the government shall each have 30 minutes, the principal speakers for the Official Opposition and the Ralliement des Cr ditistes 20 minutes, and all other speakers 15 minutes. It is also agreed that no speaker shall ask for an extension of time.

An hon. Member: Including you Stanley.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Agreed.

Mr. Baldwin: No one will get it, you mean.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I understand there has been discussion on this subject to that effect. Is it so ordered?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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NATIONAL MUSEUMS

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I ask the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. It has to do with maladministration of the National Museums of Canada as evidenced by the prolonged absence of highly paid museums' officials from their offices while touring foreign countries at considerable public expense. There is also the matter of contracts let by the museums branch for publications as far back as 1967 which to my knowledge have not yet been delivered.

● (2:10 p.m.)

I should therefore like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott):

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be authorized to inquire into the financial administration of the National Museums of Canada to determine whether all proper procedures are being followed and have been followed with respect to the expenditure of public funds.