

administrative responsibilities of the government, laid on the table and made available to members.

The hon. member for Edmonton West suggested that the answers could be contentious or that they might be mendacious, and that hon. members would not have an opportunity to respond. If that were the case, then they could respond by way of a question of privilege. I should like to point out that the answers here would be in no different category from a return that is made in response to an order of the house which had resulted from a question. Certainly there would be no immediate opportunity to reply in that case. In addition, I think that the Chair would acknowledge the fact that it would not be desirable to have a lot of mini-debates on all these questions.

The final observation that I would make is that if this new restrictive interpretation is to be given to the word "papers", as is suggested by the hon. member for Peace River, then I think Your Honour would also have to consider whether, in the same way, papers that are subject to tabling under a notice of motion for production of papers brought by hon. members opposite should not equally be given a restrictive interpretation. Therefore, if the word "papers" as it appears in the Standing Orders is to be severely cut down in its meaning, then it would similarly be restrictive of members on the other side of the house.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Ottawa West.

**Mr. Francis:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the second report of the—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have the honour to present to the house my comments on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Peace River.

May I thank hon. members for their advice as to the interpretation that ought to be placed by the Chair on standing order 41(1) and standing order 41(2). I will study the matter as closely as I can and take into account the views that have been expressed by hon. members who have taken part in the discussion. In view of the fact that there may be occasions, either today or later on, when ministers will seek the right to table similar documents, I will try to bring this decision down as quickly as possible.

### *Ways and Means*

#### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Second report of standing committee on veterans affairs—Mr. Francis.

[*Translation*]

Sixth report of standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs, in French and English—Mr. Clermont.

[*English*]

Second report of standing committee on justice and legal affairs—Mr. Tolmie.

Fourth report of standing committee on fisheries and forestry—Mr. Crossman.

[*Editor's note: For reports above referred to, see Votes and Proceedings.*]

#### WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND INCOME TAX ACT AND ESTATE TAX ACT, PURSUANT TO S.O. 60(1)

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, on October 22, 1968, I gave notices of four motions relating to taxation and customs duties, which I proposed to move in Committee of Ways and Means. Two of these have been dealt with by the house, but under the new Standing Orders it will not be necessary to consider the remaining two motions in Committee of Ways and Means. I therefore wish to inform the house how I propose that we should proceed.

In accordance with the new rules, I propose to give notices of new motions under the provisions of standing order 60 (1). Because the gift tax and the estate tax proposals are closely interrelated, consideration of these proposals would be greatly facilitated if they were placed before the house in one bill. Therefore, I now propose to table a notice of motion to amend the Income Tax Act and the Estate Tax Act. The portion of the motion concerning the Income Tax Act will refer only to gift tax amendments. If the motion is adopted by the house, one composite bill to amend the Income Tax Act and the Estate Tax Act will be introduced based on the motion.

I propose on a later date to table a further notice of motion to amend the Income Tax Act to deal with the remainder of the income tax proposals announced in October. The preparation of these income tax amendments has been delayed, while some very complicated problems related to the taxation of life