

possible the attention of members of Parliament. I know that as time goes on the attention of members of Parliament on the other side of the House will be engaged as well, if they have anything to contribute. As for the right of hon. members to speak in the House or in standing committee with regard to agricultural matters, it has not been curtailed. What has happened is that for the first time those rights, which are traditional, have now been augmented and expanded. Members of Parliament for the first time are able to advise the government in a way that will become public with respect to policy and the formation of public policy. I think it is a very healthy, new approach toward the openness of government.

**Mr. Rae:** You have to be a Tory, Walter.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** I look forward to the publication of the report, and I am sure that my agricultural friend, the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae), does so as well.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. My point a moment ago was that the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Ethier) has raised two or three points. He raised one point about language to which the minister made the preliminary answer that this was an internal document, that it was used in the English language for English-speaking members, and that, therefore, only when they attempted to make it public did they become aware of the need for translating it.

The hon. member raised a number of other matters which may not have been met by the minister in what he said today. The minister opened his intervention by indicating that he did not have notice and therefore was not prepared to respond fully to the points raised by the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell. I indicated to the House that perhaps it might benefit from an opportunity to examine what the hon. member has said to determine whether or not there are arguments. If I find that there are arguments which need to be met, I shall give the House an opportunity to meet those arguments. In fact, one of the points of arguments was referred to by the hon. member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) whether there is a question, which I noted, about the use of the stationery or facilities of the Department of Agriculture for the release of this document.

I will examine these arguments and see if on the face of them there is a point to be met. If there is a point to be met, I think that it would be better met after some preparation on both sides of the House, and I will certainly undertake to give the House an opportunity to do so. But I do not think that we will benefit very much if we do it once without preparation and then come back a second time to the arguments when we are prepared.

MR. KNOWLES—INQUIRY WHEN LAZAR REPORT WILL BE  
TABLED

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a different point of privilege. On Wednesday, October 24, it is noted in *Hansard* at page 545 that I made a

#### *Appointment of Special Committee*

motion under Standing Order 43, which was subsequently passed. It called for the publication of the Lazar report. I have been told along the way that the report had to be translated. Since it is almost two weeks since that motion was passed, I wonder if I may be told how soon that report might be tabled?

**Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member an answer to that question at the moment, but I will find out and report to him directly.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

#### HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

First Report of Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs—Mr. Halliday.

#### AGRICULTURE

First Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture—Mr. McKnight.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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### CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

#### SHORTENING OF PERIOD REQUIRED TO HOLD GENERAL AND BYELECTIONS

**Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-21, an act to amend the Canada Elections Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

#### PREVENTION OF RECURRING COST OVERRUNS—APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

On the order: Government notices of motion:

November 2, 1979—The President of the Treasury Board:

That a Special Committee of the House of Commons be appointed to inquire fully into the measures necessary to prevent recurring cost overruns on major government projects (defined as those involving expenditures in excess of \$1 million) and in particular:

(1) to carry out a review and an analysis of the measures already taken by the Treasury Board to prevent cost overruns on major government projects, and assess their impact;