

Motion for Papers

FOOD EXPORTS, SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough):

1. Has Canada sold and shipped any food or food products to any of the satellite countries in (a) 1952; (b) 1953; (c) 1954?

2. Have any of the satellite countries sold and shipped to Canada food or food products in (a) 1952; (b) 1953; (c) 1954?

3. If so, what inspection has been made by the Canadian authorities to see that these imports of food are pure and in a sanitary condition?

TRAINING IN CANADA, COLOMBO PLAN, ETC.

Mr. Knowles:

1. Since the end of world war II, how many persons from countries other than Canada have received training in Canada under the provisions of the Colombo plan, the United Nations technical assistance program, or any other plan designed to assist in the development of underdeveloped countries?

2. From what countries have such persons come, how many in each case, and how many in each year, since the end of world war II?

3. What is the total amount spent to date for the training of such persons, including transportation, maintenance or any other cost met by Canada?

MOTION FOR PAPERS

CURRIE REPORT—ACCOUNTING IRREGULARITIES

Mr. Fulton:

For a copy of the reports of the chief auditor of the Department of National Defence drawing attention to accounting irregularities in No. 11 works company R.C.E., referred to in appendix "B" of the Currie report.

Mr. Campney: As my hon. friend from Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) is, I am sure, well aware, reports made by the chief auditor of the Department of National Defence are confidential documents dealing with investigations into the internal administration of the department, and are a means of checking the efficacy of the administrative practices of the department. They are prepared solely for the guidance of senior officers of the department. It has long been the custom in this house, to regard such documents as privileged and I will therefore have to oppose this motion.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would not just admit the possibility that these come into an entirely different category. They were referred to in the appendix to Mr. Currie's report, as stated in the notice of motion, and also in the text of Mr. Currie's report. What is desired here is information of real concern to the house and to the country in order that we may establish just what steps were taken to meet the situation to which attention was drawn at that time. In the light of current developments, and by virtue of the fact that they were referred to in a document made public here, does the minister not agree they are no longer in the category which he has described?

[Mr. Bryce.]

Mr. Campney: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that anything the hon. member has said has changed the character of these documents. As a matter of fact, if I recall correctly, this issue was tested once or twice before in another place. The fact is that these are confidential documents of confidential officers prepared for the guidance of our officials. I think privilege attaches to them; otherwise there would be no particular advantage to be derived in having investigations of this type made within the department by departmental officials.

Mr. Fulton: They were seen by Mr. Currie and other officers of his company and surely the hon. members of this house should be as entitled to see them—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon member knows that this motion as he has put it is not debatable. I have allowed him to make comments upon the opposition indicated by the minister but beyond that I do not think it should be allowed.

Mr. Coldwell: May I ask the minister a supplementary question? Since these bills are for funds which are appropriated by this house, should it not be made public—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Whenever these questions come up it is always interesting to go into the subject matter of the motions. Hon. members must not forget it is they who choose this method of obtaining information. Standing order 51 says that when a member puts on the order paper a notice of motion indicated by an asterisk he intends to move it without debate. If a debate is desired it is up to any hon. member of this house to ask that these notices of motions be transferred to notices of motions. I have been lenient on this occasion because notices of motions cannot be reached. Later on, when we reach the period of oral questions and answers, if the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell) wants to put a question on the orders of the day to the minister with respect to the subject matter, he might at that time deal with it, but at this moment I think we ought to see that the terms of standing order 51 are observed.

Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt this motion?

Those who are in favour of this motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: Those who are opposed to this motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.