

Committee on Oil and Gas Production and Conservation understand the people of the Northwest Territories and their problems. Therefore, under Standing Order 43 I seek leave of the House to present a motion, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard), on an urgent and pressing matter involving our Canadian north and the northern people. I move:

That this House instruct the Ministers of Indian and Northern Affairs, and of Energy, Mines and Resources, to reconsider the appointments to the five-member committee on oil and gas production and conservation in the Canadian north and in off-shore areas, and that the committee be composed in such a way that it could understand the problems of the north and would truly represent the interests of the Canadian north and its native peoples.

• (1410)

Mr. Speaker: The motion proposed by the hon. member for Northwest Territories requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. The motion cannot be put.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker—

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

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for St. John's West. The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to you for not being able to give you notice of a matter that just came to my attention and, in addition, the minister has just entered the House. Yesterday, before the Special Committee on Food Prices, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs referred to an unpublished study by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission which he indicated had looked at the profits of the grocery store chains which in a period of rising costs showed declining profit margins. My point of privilege is that it is my understanding of the rules that if either a minister or a member refers to a report in the House or in a committee of the House that report should be tabled. Therefore my question of privilege is that the report should now be tabled.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are a number of weak aspects to the proposition made by the hon. member. First, even though this matter has just been brought to the hon. member's attention there is still the requirement of the Standing Order that notice must be given. Second, I would think it is perhaps more a point of order than a question of privilege. Third, the hon. member is trying to bring into the House a matter raised in a committee, and that is entirely out of order. Fourth, the fact that a member or a minister has referred to a document in a committee does not require its tabling. It is only when it is quoted and cited that its tabling may be required.

Mr. McGrath: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, as my colleague from Northumberland-Durham

[Mr. Firth.]

mentioned, referred to and did in fact quote from an unpublished report of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. My understanding is that the minister has a responsibility to table that document in the House once he quotes from it either in the House or before a standing committee. Unless the minister has something to hide, I suggest that he should in fact table that document.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has reiterated the point of order raised by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham. The fact remains that although I appreciate it is a point of order which is subject to interpretation and ruling from the Chair, the ruling in respect of the point of order of the hon. member for St. John's East must be the same as the ruling I just made when the matter was raised by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham, that this is a point which should be taken up in the committee. We cannot bring to the House a procedural debate that took place in a committee. I suggest respectfully to both hon. members—and of course I have no knowledge of what transpired in the committee—that even if an official document were cited, read or quoted from in a committee the rules and practice and the Standing Orders do not require that that document be tabled in the House. There must be a distinction between the proceedings in committees and the discussions, debates and proceedings in the House. It is a well known rule, which I am sure all members appreciate, that we cannot import into the House the debates, discussions and points of order which might legitimately be raised in a committee.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Then instruct the chairman, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FISHERIES

HERRING—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I beg leave of the House to present a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. I refer to the situation in Placentia, St. Mary's and other bays in Newfoundland where the Department of Fisheries has set quotas with respect to the herring fishery, thereby endangering the herring stock and causing a possible depletion, without first ascertaining, through scientific research, a safe sustainable yield of herring catches in these bays. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That this House instruct the Minister of Fisheries to initiate immediately a thorough scientific investigation into the herring stock in Placentia and St. Mary's Bays in Newfoundland with a view to determining the size of the stock and the sustainable yield; and that pending the outcome of the investigation, strict conservation measures be adopted by imposing closing lines in the bays and that large purse seiners be barred from fishing in the areas so designated.

Mr. Speaker: This motion also requires unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.