

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 13, 1967

• (2:40 p.m.)

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. FANE—INABILITY TO OBTAIN REPORT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. F. J. W. Fane (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. It concerns the statement made by the Minister of Veterans Affairs when tabling part I of the Hawthorn-Tremblay report "A Survey of the Contemporary Indians of Canada" on behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Shortly after that report was tabled in the house on Friday the hon. member for Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie (Mr. Watson) spoke on a point of privilege which Your Honour suggested was not a point of privilege, but he was allowed to continue speaking because of the agreement of all members who were in the house at that time. His point of privilege had to do with reports appearing in newspapers throughout Canada for a week before the royal commission report was tabled. Apparently the hon. member obtained a copy of the report immediately it was tabled, and read from it.

My question of privilege is that representing the constituency of Vegreville in Alberta, I represent the Saddle Lake Indian reserve which has some 2,000 residents. I have not had a copy of the report delivered to me yet. I have not seen a copy of it, and my question of privilege requires four answers.

First, I want to know how the newspapers got copies of this secret document which was not supposed to be available to anybody until it was tabled in the House of Commons. I also suggest that tabling one copy of a report in the house is not sufficient for the immediate requirements of 265 members of the house.

I want to know why copies of the report of this royal commission have not been delivered to members of the house. At the time I left my office this afternoon at 2.30 a copy of the report had neither been delivered to my office nor was there one in my mail box. I also want to know when hon. members will receive copies of the report so we can discuss the matters in it concerning the various Indian reserves.

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Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that members who were interested in obtaining copies of this report have received them and if these copies have not been delivered to all members I can only take the matter in hand and suggest to the department that this be done immediately. I apologize that this has not been done before now, but my understanding is that the report is available.

MAIN ESTIMATES, 1967-68

A message from His Excellency the Administrator transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1968, was presented by Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the house.

[Later:]

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I should like to table copies in English and French of the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968 referred to in the message from His Excellency.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TABLING OF EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN CANADA AND ISRAEL

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies in French and English of the extradition agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the state of Israel.

TRANSPORT

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY—STATEMENT RESPECTING TOLLS

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a brief statement concerning the question of tolls on the St. Lawrence seaway. On January 9 I tabled the report on St. Lawrence seaway tolls prepared by the St. Lawrence seaway authority. I had previously indicated that the proposals in that report and in the parallel report of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation of the United States