

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lundrigan: As I was saying before I was interrupted from half a dozen places in the House, the Standing Committee on Regional Development unanimously recommended very early in April, and so reported to the House on April 14, that it adjourn from place to place on the east coast of Canada, following a commitment which is more than a year old. Arrangements have been made. Now we listen to the House Leader indicating that discussions are to be held in regard to this matter. There is a unanimous feeling in the committee about this request, and I have no reason to believe there is anything but a unanimous feeling in the House.

The House Leader has intimated that the motion will not be moved for two weeks, or before the middle of next month, because of conflict in committee travel arrangements. I submit this is not the case. I feel it is a waste of time for our committee to continue to meet unless the committee's report is concurred in. I think the House Leader has no right, as a member of this House, to prevent the report coming before the House, which is exactly what he is doing. I think, Mr. Speaker, that this confirms what other hon. members—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The point which the hon. member makes has from time to time, been presented to the Chair and to hon. members for consideration. I am sure the submissions of the hon. member have been noted. I would not think this is a matter about which there should be debate at this time.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member has made the allegation that I have prevented the matter coming forward. I have been acting on the basis of information I received from the committee. I understood that the committee had agreed it would not, in any event, seek to travel before the middle of next month. That information may or may not be correct, but I believe I was acting on reliable information. The other question which has to be borne in mind is that if more than one committee is away from the House, it will be very difficult to carry on the business here.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**PRICE STABILITY****APPOINTMENT OF JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved:

That a special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons, to be known as the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Price Stability, be appointed to consider reports of the Prices and Incomes Commission, and such other related reports or papers as may be referred to the committee, with powers to report from time to time its observations and opinions thereon; to send for persons, papers and records; to sit during sittings and adjournments of the House; to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by the committee; and to delegate to subcommittees any of its powers except the power to report directly to the House of Commons.

That 12 members of the House of Commons, to be designated at a later date, act on behalf of the House as members of the said committee, seven of whom shall be required for a quorum.

That when a quorum is not present, the chairmen of the said committee or of its subcommittees be authorized to proceed with meetings for the purpose of receiving and printing evidence; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems advisable, some of its members to act on the proposed special joint committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, there is before the House a motion to establish a Joint Committee of this House and the Senate on Price Stability. Hon. members will recall that an improved approach toward the achievement of price stability was proposed in the White Paper on Policies for Price Stability which I presented just over a year ago. The new approach outlined in this white paper was clearly intended by the government to supplement and support the use of the traditional instruments of fiscal and monetary management available to the government. It was not designed to replace these traditional instruments.

In the white paper it was suggested that two new bodies were to be created to focus continuing attention on the problem of rising prices that is of concern to us all. One of those bodies, the Prices and Incomes Commission, was appointed by Order in Council last June. I gave notice to the House on December 15 last of this motion that we are to debate today for the appointment of the second of these new bodies, to be known as the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Price Stability. This is the motion we are debating today.