

Question of Privilege

exchanged during the past year between the Minister of Justice and the attorneys general or other provincial ministers regarding methods of amending the constitution of Canada; and also for other papers and documents prepared for and presented to the meeting held in October between the Minister of Justice and the attorneys general relating to the amendment of the constitution of Canada.

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that this motion be transferred for debate.

Mr. Speaker: This motion is transferred for debate at the request of the government.

MOVE OF FORESTRY LABORATORIES TO SAULT
STE. MARIE

Motion No. 231—**Mr. Addison:**

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of all correspondence exchanged during 1964-65 between the Minister of Forestry and the Ontario minister of lands and forests and the attorney general of the province of Ontario with regard to the proposed move of the federal Department of Forestry research laboratories from Maple and Richmond Hill to Sault Ste. Marie; and also for any other papers, reports and documents in the possession of the government prepared with regard to this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt this motion subject to the reservation expressed by the parliamentary secretary?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Villeneuve rising on a question of privilege?

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: The house is seized with a question of privilege now, and I understood from the arrangement agreed to at the beginning of the proceedings this afternoon that we would have the half hour question period and immediately thereafter we would return to the question of privilege raised yesterday. Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Brewin.]

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, this is another question of privilege, it is not the same thing at all.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: We should proceed with one question of privilege at a time. Is the house now ready to begin the half hour question period?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PENSIONS

POSITION OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING
QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister, asking him whether the government, having had the benefit of 12 hours' rest since the occurrences of yesterday, has decided to make a strategic withdrawal from the unconstitutional position it took yesterday in respect of the motion on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Beauce. Will not the government, and particularly the Prime Minister, after reconsideration overnight, come to the determination that there should be a retreat in this connection?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am unable to answer the question in the form in which it has been put.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should put the question in a much simpler form. Are you going to back down from the unconstitutional position taken yesterday by the government?

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I should like to direct to the Prime Minister or to the house leader. Has the government overnight been able to solve the problem of getting the balance of the minutes of proceedings and evidence of the special joint committee on Bill C-136 translated and printed so that we might now proceed with the consideration of Bill C-136?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the question in the form in which it has now been put certainly should be answered. It is unfortunate that it was not put in that form in the beginning, because it gives me an opportunity to make a short statement on this matter which will in effect be a reply to my hon. friend.