

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay) on a point of order.

Mr. MacKay: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I presume we will be continuing with this tomorrow, so I should like to call it six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It has already been called six o'clock. That is no problem. The speaker who just had the floor called it six o'clock and, even if he had not, it is still six o'clock.

The hon. member for Central Nova has raised a point of order which I was going to inform the House about in any event. We have found ourselves in a situation which resembles the disposition of motions pursuant to Standing Order 43, prior to the question period. It resembles it only in this sense, that we face a situation we have not faced previously.

We have a motion on the floor at the present time. Proceedings on that motion are automatically interrupted by the ordinary hour of adjournment which has now arrived. I have therefore a choice, it would seem, of how to dispose or deal with this matter on the order paper. One way is to list it under motions, and the other is to list it under government orders pursuant to some of the Standing Orders. I am not clear as to which way it ought to be done and we have no precedents to guide us. It is a motion in the name of the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawrence), and it is a privilege motion. I have therefore opted in favour of treating it on the order paper as a motion. That is the way it will appear on the order paper. I do so, however, subject to a point of order which I do not think we should deal with at this hour, because I cannot really expect anybody to be prepared, and certainly we are not prepared to deal with it at this point.

This is my preliminary choice and those are the brief reasons why I have done so. I do so subject to a point of order which can be raised tomorrow before this matter is resumed.

Mr. Lawrence: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, among the other personal undertakings broken by the President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) before this House was one today in which as he lightly castigated some of us on this side for having no courage. He indicated he was going to table the correspondence, at the same time asking why I did not do it. He knows full well, of course, that under the rules of the House I have no authority to do that. My understanding is that he has not yet tabled that piece of correspondence. I would ask the President of Privy Council to do so. At the same time I would ask the hon. gentleman, as he indicated that

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there was a very selective taking out of testimony of former commissioner Higgitt, that he also table, if he would please, the complete testimony of former commissioner Higgitt, of October 24 and November 1, 1978. This is referred to in the motion before the House.

● (1802)

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to table the letter. It is in my office and if the hon. gentleman would give me a moment, I will be happy to get it.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill S-7, an act to implement conventions between Canada and the Republic of Korea and Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and an agreement between Canada and Jamaica for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to income tax, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. LAWRENCE—MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lawrence:

That the letter sent by the Solicitor General of the day to the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham on December 4, 1973, and the testimony of former RCMP Commissioner Higgitt on October 24 and November 1, 1978, before the royal commission of inquiry (McDonald commission) concerning the practice of the RCMP in preparing letters for the signature of the Solicitor General, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for investigation and report.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, I would be pleased to table a copy of the letter from the solicitor general to the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham. The letter is dated December 4, 1973. I am happy to comply with the request and I regret that following the applause which greeted my speech I forgot to table it at that time.

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 6.07 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.