

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, after some of the ill-defined statements which have come from across the way, any member of the house might feel he had something to contribute to this debate.

I will be very brief. I wish to refer to citation 106 of Beauchesne, to be found on page 96, since I would like Your Honour to take it into consideration when you are determining whether or not there is a valid question of privilege before us. Paragraph 1 reads as follows:

Although either House may expound the law of Parliament, and indicate its own privileges, it is agreed that no new privileges can be created. In 1704, the Lords communicated a resolution to the Commons at a conference, "That neither House of Parliament have power, by any vote or declaration, to create to themselves new privileges, not warranted by the known laws and customs of Parliament".

The way in which these estimates have been drawn up this year represents a departure from one of the customs of parliament.

Paragraph 2 says:

The dignity and independence of the two Houses are in great measure preserved by keeping their privileges indefinite. If all the privileges of Parliament were set down and ascertained, and no privilege to be allowed but what was so defined and determined, it were easy for the executive power to devise some new case, not within the line of privilege, and under pretence thereof, to harass any refractory member and violate the freedom of Parliament.

That is exactly that the minister is trying to do. He is trying to violate one of the freedoms of parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I should mention to the hon. member that I meant to say "something additional", not "something substantial". It was, if the hon. member for Macleod will allow me to use a Latin expression a lapsus lingue.

HATE LITERATURE**APPOINTMENT OF HOUSE MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bernard Pilon (Chambly-Rouville) moved:

That the following members be appointed to represent the house on the special joint committee on the question raised by the resolution concerning hate literature, namely:—Messrs. Baldwin, Forest, Gauthier, Klein, Leboe, Lewis, Mandziuk, Mongrain, Nasserden, Reid, Tolmie and Walker.

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their Honours thereof.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Speaker.]

FINANCE**TARIFF BOARD REPORT ON MACHINERY FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the house that I have tabled today copies in English and in French of a report by the Tariff Board on reference 137 which covers machinery and equipment for fresh fruit or fresh vegetables. I have tabled also a transcript of the evidence presented at the public hearings held by the board.

I can assure hon. members that the board's recommendations will be considered carefully by the government. Interested parties who may wish to comment on this report should do so promptly.

PUBLIC SERVICE**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF GLASSCO COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In the light of the warning by the governor of the Bank of Canada that the Canadian economy is being overloaded, and in view of the astronomical and runaway federal spending indicated in the estimates for 1967-1968, will the Prime Minister report to parliament in the very near future as to the steps the government is taking now to implement the Glassco recommendations to eliminate government waste inasmuch as Canadians are wondering whether the world of waste under this government is to go on unchecked?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, a great many of the recommendations of the Glassco commission have, of course, been implemented, some by the right hon. gentleman but more by the present administration. The government is giving consideration to further ways in which the implementation of these recommendations can take place. I should like to point out, however, with regard to the right hon. gentleman's observations, that the expenditures which are reflected in the estimates before the house are estimates based upon decisions made by this free parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A world of waste.