

Motions for Papers

HALIFAX, N.S.—DEATH OF WILLIAM SCUDDER

Motion No. 94—**Mr. Douglas:**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of any report covering the investigation into the death of William Scudder while he was employed on ship reef work on H.M.C.S. *Provider* at Halifax in 1965.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): The hon. member agrees to withdraw the notice of motion.

[English]

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I would ask permission to withdraw this motion.

Mr. Speaker: Dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

HEARINGS OF ALBERTA ELECTORAL
BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONMotion No. 121—**Mr. Woolliams:**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of all reports, records or documents indicating the places, dates, and times of public hearings held by the electoral boundaries commission for Alberta and the members of the commission and staff attending each hearing; for a copy of the transcript of the proceedings of each hearing; for a return of the record of each hearing if no transcript was made; for the memorandum provided to members of the commission who were absent from any meeting; and for the résumé or other document prepared by the commission or any of its members setting out the reasons for changes made in the electoral boundaries for Alberta.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, with respect to this motion, it has already been explained to the house that the Secretary of State's department is not responsible for any of the hearings which were held by, or for the matters which took place before, the boundaries commissions. I am informed by the chief representation officer that in his opinion there is no way in which the boundaries commissions can be asked to produce such information. In some cases no records of any kind in the form of transcripts and whatnot were kept. It is therefore not within the power of the government to produce for the house the kind of documentation which is requested.

This matter was raised by my hon. friend the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) while the boundaries question was being discussed in the house, and the position was made clear to him at the time. I am afraid my hon. friend did not agree with me, and I understand that he has asked his hon. friend to place this motion on the order

paper. However, the government is not in a position to answer the motion even if the house were to make an order for a return. Therefore under the circumstances I would entreat the hon. member who placed the matter on the order paper to withdraw it.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, on the point raised by the Secretary of State may I say, as I indicated some weeks ago when discussing this particular problem, that the order is an order of the house. It is conceivable that there is no responsibility on the government with regard to the matter, but the Secretary of State is the only channel through which the house can direct its wishes in this regard.

I am sure every member of this house agrees that no boundaries redistribution commission of any province has been sent off into orbit beyond recall from this house. Therefore, with the greatest respect to the chief redistribution officer, this house is still the master of these matters. If this house makes an order directing the production of these papers, then the boundaries commission must produce the papers.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Speaker, then in order to give an opportunity for all members to express themselves on the point, may I ask that the matter be transferred for debate.

Mr. Woolliams: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It may not be quite a point of order, but I would mention to the minister that it may be a little late getting down to debate.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 47 this motion is transferred for debate.

SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION

Motion No. 128—**Mr. Howard:**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of any communication exchanged between the maritime trustees, or other organizations and other persons, and the Minister of Labour or any official of the Department of Labour, with respect to the Seafarers International Union.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I had moved this the other day, and I was just not sure of the procedure by which it could be revived. In commenting about this matter perhaps I should refer to last week's *Hansard*, where at page 5267 I am reported to have said in response to a statement by the minister,