

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 1, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TABLING OF SECOND REPORT OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the second report of the Clerk of Petitions.

[Later:]

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I was delayed for a moment in getting into the House and so was not present when the second report of the Clerk of Petitions was tabled on behalf of the people of Old Crow. I have discussed this matter with the government House leader and I would now ask that the House give unanimous consent to have the text of the petition printed at the appropriate place in *Hansard* for today's proceedings.

Mr. Speaker: As hon. members know, under the terms of the Standing Order the Chair now has to inquire whether there is unanimous consent for the reading of the petition but I assume that the same result would be achieved by unanimous consent to print the petition. Is there unanimous agreement to this effect?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Editor's Note: For text of above petition, see appendix.]

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SPRING!

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege affecting all members of the House and all people in Canada. Your Honour will have noticed that hon. members are wearing daffodils today which marks the arrival of spring in Canada. I bring greetings from the people of the west coast, and in particular from the Greater Vancouver Tourist and Convention Bureau which has sent this gift of daffodils to mark the arrival of spring, incongruous though that may seem here in Ottawa today.

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ST. DAVID'S DAY

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind the House that today, March 1, is St. David's Day, named for the patron saint of Wales. It is a great pleasure for all of us that the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr.

Diefenbaker) is present and in good health, he having recently become a Welshman by blood transfusion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PRIVILEGE

MR. McGRATH—ALLEGED CONFLICT BETWEEN INFORMATION IN DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATION AND ANSWER BY MINISTER OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a question of privilege, notice of which has been given pursuant to the Standing Order. My question of privilege arises out of information given the House on a matter within the administrative responsibilities of the government. I shall be as brief as possible. I regret that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) is not in his seat.

The facts are as follows: in a government publication issued by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion under the authority of the minister and entitled "Regional Development Incentives Act, A Summary of Offers Accepted to 30 June, 1971", a certain entry appears. This entry lists the firm of A. Bélanger Ltée., Montreal, and its location is given as Montmagny, Quebec. Under "Type of Industry" it states that the firm is engaged in the manufacture of stoves, freezers and metal shelves. It goes on to describe the capital cost of the plant and the amount of the grant paid to the firm, which was \$158,580.

On Monday, February 28, 1972, during the oral question period there occurred the following exchange between the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. McBride) and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, which is to be found at page 305 of *Hansard*:

MR. MURRAY McBRIDE (LANARK-RENFREW-CARLETON): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the announcement on Friday last by Belanger-Tappan Limited that they propose to close their Carleton Place plant known as Findlay's Limited in the very near future and to concentrate their production at the Montmagny plant in the province of Quebec, has this company received any federal assistance from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to create, improve or enlarge this company's facilities at Montmagny?

• (1410)

HON. JEAN MARCHAND (MINISTER OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, and there is no relationship between what is going on at Montmagny and the closing of the Findlay plant at Carleton Place.

MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Are we to take it that no application for a grant is at present before the department, as well as no grant having already been provided?