

*Privilege—Mr. MacEachen*

mending the estimates to the House? On whose authority is His Excellency recommending them, if not on the authority of the government? I do not believe this is a matter that can sit for 24 hours. This is the House of Commons.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The matter is very fundamental. I certainly do not intend to make a decision which would affect such a fundamental matter without an opportunity to consider it. I have taken under advisement the question which has been raised and I intend to give it careful study and consideration. I intend to rule on it as quickly as I can. If there are other arguments on the point, I would be pleased to hear them.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that in answer to the question by the opposition House Leader (Mr. MacEachen) and by the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien) the President of the Treasury Board said that he did not take responsibility—

**Some hon. Members:** No, no.

**Mr. Trudeau:** It may not be on the record—

**Mr. MacEachen:** He shook his head.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —but he obviously said no. If he is now saying that he did not say no, but that he recommends them—

**Mr. Stevens:** Because I never said it.

**Mr. MacEachen:** You said it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we saw him shaking his head “no”, but if he is saying—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, we have to say what we see. If the hon. member is saying that he did not say no and he did not intend to say no, why does he not indicate to us now that he is accepting his responsibility as the servant of the Crown to take responsibility for these estimates? He either said no, or he did not say no. We want to know if he is responsible, or not—

**Mr. Chrétien:** You said you are not recommending.

**Mr. Trudeau:** —as a minister of the Crown.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I want to clarify now, as a mechanical matter, is the hon. President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens), in making any negative action, saying that he has not recommended their approval to the House? He was asked if he recommended their approval, and he had said that he did not recommend their approval today. Is he saying that he did not add a recommendation of the approval, or is he saying that he does not recommend their approval? They are two entirely different statements.

I have nothing on the record except the statement by the President of the Treasury Board that he has tabled the esti-

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mates and takes no further action. That is the matter that is before me. I have to examine the question of the absence of a recommendation. I do not have in front of me any statement by the President of the Treasury Board that he does not recommend these estimates to the House of Commons; I simply have his declaration that he takes no further action. That is the point I have to decide.

The estimates have been tabled. The President of the Treasury Board has simply tabled the estimates and says nothing further. That was his declaration in response to the point of order. That is the situation I have to consider.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, when you are looking into this matter, would you examine the record to find out whether the president of the treasury board in the last government went any further than the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens) did today? My recollection is that all that is ever said by the President of the Treasury Board when he is tabling the estimates is that he has a message from the Governor General signed in his own hand. I do not see that anything different happened this morning than has happened in the past.

**Mr. MacEachen:** We asked him a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Tabling of documents.

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## THE ADMINISTRATION

### TABLING OF LIST OF PROPOSED MEASURES

**Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to an undertaking given by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Clark) when he was leader of the opposition, I should like to table, under Standing Order 41(2), in both official languages, a list of some of the measures which the government proposes to place before Parliament during the first session of the Thirty-first Parliament.

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[Translation]

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Wednesday, October 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Fretz for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto (Mr. Trudeau) (p. 37), and of the amendment to the amendment (Mr. Broadbent) (p. 47).