(English)

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

ALLEGED MISLEADING STATEMENT IN "CANADA 1972"—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43 I ask unanimous consent of the House to move a motion concerning the dissemination of seriously misleading statements in a document published under the authority of one of the ministers of the Crown. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald):

That the publication Canada 1972 and particularly the statement on page 105, "Defeat of a major government bill will ordinarily be considered a vote of confidence ... but the cabinet can choose to consider any such defeat not decisive," be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for examination as to any real or implied diminution of the rights and priveleges of this House or of its members.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members have heard the motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There appears to be a lack of unanimity. The motion cannot be put.

AGRICULTURE

POTATOES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) might have been making a statement on motions today, but in light of the fact that he is not I request unanimous consent of the House under standing Order 43 to move the following motion of urgent and pressing necessity, seconded by the hon, member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean):

That in light of the breakdown in communication between the potato producers on Prince Edward Island and the Minister of Agriculture, resulting in widespread misunderstanding and anxiety—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have serious doubts about the terms of the motion proposed by the hon. member. It is obviously argumentative. Perhaps the hon. member might indicate quickly what the rest of the motion is so that it might be put.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In light of the request received today by the minister for his attendance at a mass meeting of growers in Charlottetown tomorrow I move, seconded by the hon. member for Malpeque:

That this House does request the Minister of Agriculture and his officials to attend this meeting so that there may be a resolution of the concern and anxiety about the diversion potato program in the shortest possible time.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimity?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

RESEARCH ANIMALS PROTECTION BILL

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR HUMANE TREATMENT

Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-171, to provide for the humane treatment of vertebrate animals used in scientific and industrial experiments, tests or training by recipients of grants from the government of Canada, by agencies of the government of Canada and by persons manufacturing or testing pharmaceutical or biochemical products for sale to the government of Canada or to any of its agencies.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Groos: Mr. Speaker, those who have looked at this bill know it has been introduced in the House previously. Its purpose is self-evident. I am hoping that this time the House in its wisdom will see to it that the bill is passed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

• (1530)

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGET AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Prime Minister. On Tuesday, in answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition regarding whether or not the government intended to introduce a budget this spring, the Minister of Finance used the following words:

I cannot tell the hon. member if or when there will be a budget.

Can the Prime Minister advise the House and the country whether or not the government intends to introduce a budget this spring, and also would the Prime Minister advise the House when the government intends to make known its policy on foreign investment in Canada so that the uncertainty surrounding both these matters may be removed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the hon. member is asking a double-barrelled question, if not two questions. I think hon. members, when they have the floor, should make an effort to ask only one question at a