

*Motions for Papers*

commission. We do not have the facts even at this stage.

So far as I am concerned the minister has taken an untenable position in referring this matter of debate and has used the rules of the House of Commons to slough it off so that by the time the question is debated the final report will have been sent back to the house and the information contained therein will be useless to us. It would be useless to us even if received at this late stage. That is our position, Mr. Speaker. I do not think there is precedent anywhere to the effect that a minister of the crown is not answerable to the house for the actions of this commission. The minister's name is mentioned in the act and the minister is responsible for its administration and has certain responsibilities so far as the commission is concerned. Yet she has refused to give us this information.

● (6:10 p.m.)

She does not blame herself. She blames the representation commissioner who advised her what the law was and she accepts his view. She put herself in a ridiculous position. I am not going to take any more time of the house. That is our position. We think it is appalling that a minister of the crown would take such a stand. There are other members on this side and maybe some members on the other side who may want to say something. I have come to grips with the problem. So far as I am concerned the minister should give us the information so that we can look at it even at this late date, and the debate should be voluntarily adjourned.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Restigouche-Madawaska):** Mr. Speaker, I followed with interest the remarks made by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams). He is requesting that an order of the house do issue for a copy of all reports, records or documents, minutes, etc., concerning the hearings of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, the Electoral Boundaries Commission for Alberta was established under the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, 13, Elizabeth II, chapter 31.

That commission, duly constituted, submitted its report last December 13, as stipulated in section 12 of the act. It is obvious that this report does not please the hon. member. I think that he hopes to get a copy of the various documents, used by the commission to find out the reasons, factors or motives

[Mr. Woolliams.]

which might have inspired the commission's decision. That is a commendable objective. However, the house, and I say this quite plainly, does not have the authority to order the commission to file those documents.

Section 18 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act reads as follows:

Each commission shall complete its report not later than one year after the receipt by the chairman from the representation commissioner of the copy of the return referred to in section 11, and upon the completion of such report shall cause two certified copies thereof to be transmitted to the representation commissioner.

Therefore, that section clearly stipulates that the commission must report to the commissioner.

Moreover, section 19 of the same act says:

Upon receiving the certified copies referred to in section 18 of the report of any commission, the representation commissioner shall transmit one of the copies thereof to the Speaker who shall, subject to subsection (2), cause such copy to be laid before the House of Commons forthwith upon its receipt by him if Parliament is then sitting, or if Parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first five days next thereafter that Parliament is sitting.

And subsection (2) of section 19 says:

(2) Where the copy referred to in subsection (1) of the report of any commission for a province is received by the Speaker during an interval between two sessions of parliament, the Speaker shall forthwith cause the same to be published in the *Canada Gazette* and a copy of the said *Canada Gazette* to be sent by mail to each of the members of the House of Commons representing electoral districts in that province.

That shows, Mr. Speaker, that the commissioner must submit his report to the Speaker who, in turn, must table it in the house.

Therefore, that commission is not in the same position as the C.B.C. or C.N.R. or any other crown corporation.

Besides, the precedent has already been set, and by none other than the leader of the hon. member who has just spoken, that is the former prime minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), as reported on page 1389 of *Hansard*, for June 18, 1958

It was question No. 17 put by Mr. Fisher:

1. What value and percentage of the grants of Canada Council awarded to universities in the last operational year went for residences or dormitories?
2. Is it a requirement set by Canada Council that such residences contain a library?
3. If so, what requirements are there as to size, type of bookstock and catalogue facilities?
4. Has Canada Council a classification of the kind of university capital expenditures to which it will consider awarding grants?
5. If so, what is the classification?