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JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1969.

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order was raised yesterday by the honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) in respect of a Notice of Motion in the name of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) dealing with proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of the House. Other honourable Members, including the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), the honourable Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) and the honourable Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken) supported the contention that the Minister's motion should not be accepted by the Chair for purposes of transfer to Government Orders pursuant to Standing Order 21. The honourable President of the Privy Council argued in support of the government's position. At the conclusion of the procedural debate I undertook to study the arguments advanced in the course of the discussion and to make an early ruling.

Stated briefly, the problem is whether the government can set down a Motion that follows substantially the terms of a committee report presented to the House but the concurrence of which has not yet been moved by the committee chairman. I must remind honourable Members that the Speaker can only rule on points of order and questions of procedure. The decision to be made at this time is whether it is procedurally in order to transfer the Minister's Motion for debate. During the discussion yesterday serious questions of principle were raised by honourable Members who questioned the propriety of a government motion which, if proceeded with, might in effect block the discussion of a motion to concur in the report of a standing committee.

It has been suggested that the government's motion as it now stands is in contempt of the House; and that the Chair, on its own initiative, should determine that the House will consider the proposed rules changes within the framework of the committee report rather than under the heading of the proposed