

be put on the order paper. Now, if the same attitude is applied to written questions as is applied to oral questions, we will never get any answers. Even now—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Starr:—we have some 126 questions unanswered for over a month or more.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member now seems to be entering into a debate with the government house leader, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith). My ruling has to remain that there is no question of privilege in the matter raised by the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Coates).

[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Bécharde (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, notice of motion No. 102 is acceptable to the government.

[English]

ADVERTISEMENTS IN U.S. PUBLICATIONS

Motion No. 102—**Mr. McIntosh:**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all advertisements in the February and March issues inserted in periodicals and newspapers in the United States by the Canadian Government Travel Bureau.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house that notice of motion No. 102 be passed?

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

Mr. Bécharde: Would Your Honour be kind enough to call notice of motion 89? I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the other notices of motion stand.

[English]

CORRESPONDENCE WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, SUDBURY AND TORONTO

Motion No. 89—**Mr. Nielsen:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all correspondence between the Prime Minister, or any minister of the crown, and the Industrial Development Bank at Sudbury and Toronto, and the replies thereto, within the last three months.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the traditional position has been that it is not in the public interest to table anything which would reveal the affairs or identity of any individual applying for, or

Motions for Papers

obtaining, a loan from the Industrial Development Bank, as such information is considered to be commercially confidential.

In any event, a search of the records shows no correspondence as described in the hon. member's motion, the terms of which refer to correspondence by the Prime Minister or any minister of the Crown.

I should add, however, that there is one letter to the Industrial Development Bank written by an executive assistant. This letter reveals the name of an applicant, and to produce it would offend against the principle I have just enunciated.

In view of what I have said, I suggest the hon. member may wish to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Eric Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, did I understand the minister to say that the letter which was written was by an executive assistant to a minister?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. I stated that the only correspondence between the Industrial Development Bank and any minister's office—and I was taking the interpretation of the motion very broadly so that I would be entirely fair to the hon. gentleman—of such a kind is written by an executive assistant, and that letter mentions the name of an applicant. I said it offends against the principle I have enunciated in respect of the confidential nature of such information; but there is no correspondence which I or the bank have been able to find between any minister and the Industrial Development Bank at Sudbury or Toronto during the last three months.

Mr. Nielsen: The question, Mr. Speaker, included the Prime Minister's office as well. I cannot withdraw the motion because I believe the minister's statement, quite unknowingly to him, is inaccurate.

Mr. Speaker: Do I understand that the motion is not withdrawn?

Mr. Nielsen: I cannot withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.