

Inquiries of the Ministry

representatives of the United States government were in the gallery, could I ask the Prime Minister whether or not this is the Canadian government's method of conveying information to governments of other nations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Skoberg: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Moose Jaw is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Skoberg: Mr. Speaker, this is not a facetious question. I suggest that it is disgusting, degrading and revolting to have an answer given by a minister that suggests that Canada should make official representation simply by quoting something said in the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's point of order very much resembles the one raised by the hon. member for Ontario. I would not think it is acceptable as a point of order; rather, it is a point for debate.

Mr. Skoberg: Then, I rise on a question of privilege. As an elected member of the House of Commons and a representative of Canadians, I suggest I should know whether or not the government of the day is making official representations to other nations of the world through the House of Commons or through other forms of communication that are available. I have received inquiries about this, and as a member of the House it is my privilege to seek an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member can obtain this information in many ways, one of which is by putting the question on the Order Paper. Orders of the day.

[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

MR. LANIEL—TEXT OF A QUESTION ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Gérald Laniel (Beauharnois): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Beauharnois on a question of privilege.

Mr. Laniel: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

I have placed on the order paper a question bearing No. 1,811. I feel that the text does not correspond to the one I gave the officials responsible for preparing the order paper. Therefore, I conclude that my French version

[Mr. Skoberg.]

was translated into English for the English order paper, then retranslated into French for the French order paper, or else my text was interpreted and I am not prepared to accept that. I wish to draw this error to the attention of the Chair and of the House, and I hope this will not happen again.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair shall look into the matter raised by the hon. member.

● (3:20 p.m.)

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

STANDARDS COUNCIL OF CANADA

ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTS AND POWERS, ORGANIZATION, ETC.

The House resumed from Friday, March 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pepin that Bill C-163, to provide for the establishment of a Standards Council of Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lundrigan (p. 4726).

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a few remarks to the House in relation to Bill C-163, by which the government intends to establish a Standards Council of Canada as outlined in the bill.

First of all, I should like to make a few remarks about the amendment moved by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan). At the outset, may I say I think it is a very good amendment in that it has given the trade and the people interested in this legislation the opportunity to study the bill, to look into its ramifications and the very great powers that are incorporated in the bill.

The question of a Standards Council of Canada first came to my attention in this House in December 1968. At that time the House was debating a supply motion and the minister was introducing his departmental estimates. Included in his estimates was an item amounting to \$80,000 for the purpose of establishing a Standards Council of Canada. I put forth the argument that the minister should not be asking for \$80,000 for this purpose until he had outlined to the members the reasons for asking for this amount. Finally, the minister agreed—and I thank him for this—to my suggestion that he first bring in the legislation, tell the House what it was all about, and that if we approved the legislation