

Business of the House

privilege, it would be my intention to move the following motion:

That the question of privilege this day raised by the honourable member for the Yukon as to the right of a member of the House of Commons to purchase or lease lands held in the name of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in the right of Canada without offending the provisions of the Senate and House of Commons Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections and, in particular, that there be referred to the said committee the circumstances raised by the honourable member for the Yukon surrounding the rejection of an application made by him to purchase such lands in the Yukon and the rejection of an application made by him for the renewal of lease number 1329, and that there be further referred to the said committee the question as to whether an employee and/or employees of the government of Canada in making and applying such decisions is acting within the scope of his responsibilities; and that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development make no disposition of the lands affected by the said lease number 1329 until the report and recommendations of the said standing committee have been made to this House.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the suggestion that there has been deliberate harassment of the hon. gentleman, I think it would be very desirable if the House were in a position to make this reference to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. The provisions of the Senate and House of Commons Act have been quite difficult for a number of members in a number of contexts. I agree that on behalf of the hon. member for Yukon and on behalf of other hon. members who may be affected by the section that it would be very desirable to have some clarification of the questions of law involved and some indication of how this and similar types of situations can be handled in the future. I agree with the hon. gentleman that surely there could not have been any intention on the part of Parliament in passing this section that it should apply in this way.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, if there were unanimous consent to accept the motion, Your Honour would not have to decide whether there is a prima facie case of privilege and the matter could be disposed of in that way.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose I would then have to rule that there is a prima facie case. In any event, it seems there is an analogy to the situation raised by the hon. member for York-Simcoe some months ago when by unanimous consent it was agreed by hon. members that the circumstances raised by the hon. member should be studied by the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. It

seems that this situation is related very closely to the one considered previously by the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. In view of the fact that there is unanimous agreement, the motion proposed by the hon. member is deemed to have been adopted. The matter will be referred to the committee.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Seventh and eighth reports of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, in English and in French—Mr. H.-Pit Lessard (LaSalle).

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

AGRICULTURE**CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bruce S. Beer (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe) moved that the second report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, presented to the House on Wednesday, May 6, 1970, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WITHDRAWAL OF BILL C-193 FROM STANDING COMMITTEE AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have been further discussions about the work of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. I believe it will be found that there is general agreement that Bill C-193, to amend the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act, which was referred by the House after second reading to the said committee, should be withdrawn from that committee and referred to a committee of the whole House. If I am right in my assumption that this would be generally acceptable, perhaps the following could be made an order of the House. I move:

That Bill C-193, to amend the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act, be withdrawn from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs and referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

Motion agreed to.