Motions for Papers

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmoni): Mr. Speaker, since another motion of mine applies accept the government's explanation and I to the second part and it was put over for withdraw the motion. debate, I agree to the request of the parliamentary secretary.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

SALES TAX ON DRUGS

Motion No. 206-Mr. Saltsman:

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of any reports, reviews or studies of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding the removal of the federal sales tax on pharmaceuticals and drugs.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the reports, reviews or studies referred to by the hon, member consist of working sheets and memoranda composed for internal use in the department and passing between officials and the minister. As such they are privileged documents, the production of which is contrary to public policy. In view of this, I ask the hon, member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the taxpayers of Canada made these concessions, I think these documents should be made public. Therefore I ask that the motion be transferred for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the motion shall be transferred for debate pursuant to Standing Order 48?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

NATIONAL POSTAL ZONING CODE

Motion No. 214-Mr. Mather:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the interim study undertaken by one of the task forces in the Department of Communications regarding a national postal zoning code as referred to by the Minister of Communications in Hansard of June 9, page 9870.

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications has asked me to refuse this motion on the grounds that the final report of the study to which reference has been made of a national postal code has not yet been received and that it is therefore not possible to determine at this time whether the publication of this report in whole or in part would be in the public interest. I therefore ask the hon, member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO GENERAL GOWON

Motion No. 255-Mr. Nystrom:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the message sent by the Prime Minister to General Gowan as mentioned on July 2, 1969, as reported in Hansard on page 10751.

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, communications between heads of government are normally confidential and their contents not made public. In any case such action cannot be taken unilaterally. In the circumstances I ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Because of the importance of the matter, Mr. Speaker, I would like to transfer the motion for debate.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The motion is transferred for debate and placed on the order paper under the heading Notices of Motions (Papers), pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 48(1).

[English]

PRELIMINARY STUDY, CONFLICT OF INTEREST LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Motion No. 257-Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the preliminary study of existing legislation on conflict of interest provisions for Members of Parliament, the Senate and other public officials as referred to by the President of the Privy Council in a recent statement to the press.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the documents in response to this motion are made up of internal studies prepared by members of my own staff, in addition to a study prepared by the research branch of the library. I would, of course, claim privilege in respect of my own internal documents, but if the hon. member is agreeable I would be prepared to table the study just mentioned in response to the motion.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I will accept what is