

STANDING RULES AND ORDERS

CHANGE IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Leopold Langlois moved, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding Rule 45(1) (h):

That the name of the honourable Senator Grosart be substituted for that of the honourable Senator Macdonald (Cape Breton) on the list of senators serving on the Standing Senate Committee on Standing Rules and Orders.

Motion agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—INQUIRY ANSWERED

Hon. Thomas J. Kickham inquired of the Government pursuant to notice:

1. On what date was a lease agreement entered into between the Department of Transport at Charlottetown, P.E.I., and the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Company for space accommodation in the Government frost-proof warehouse at Georgetown, P.E.I., and on what date was it terminated?

2. What was the amount charged per cubic foot of accommodation; what was the total amount paid by Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Company; and to whom was payment made?

3. On what date was a lease agreement entered into between the Department of Transport at Charlottetown, P.E.I., and Biroid of Canada for space accommodation in the Government frost-proof warehouse at Georgetown, P.E.I., and on what date was it terminated?

4. What was the amount charged per cubit foot of accommodation; what was the total amount paid by Biroid of Canada; and to whom was payment made?

5. Are producers of perishable farm products entitled to priority in leasing space over producers of non-perishable goods in Federal Government frost-proof warehouses in P.E.I.?

Hon. Paul Martin: Answered.

(*The answer follows.*)

1. Entered into February 1, 1970 and terminated January 31, 1971.

2. Six cents per square foot of shed space occupied per month; one cent per square foot of outside open area occupied per month; lease also provided for payment of utility charges and applicable wharfage and berthing rates in accordance with Government Wharves Regulations. Total amount paid for period February 1, 1970 to January 31, 1971—\$12,005.13. Payment by cheque payable to the Receiver General of Canada and delivered to appropriate officers of the Department of Transport.

3. Entered into February 1, 1970 and terminated September 30, 1970.

[Hon. Mr. Urquhart.]

4. Six cents per square foot per month, total amount of rental paid for period February 1, 1970 to September 30, 1970—\$2,025. Payment by cheque payable to the Receiver General of Canada and delivered to appropriate officers of the Department of Transport.

5. No. The Department endeavours to give some preference to potato shippers at Georgetown, as at other similar ports in P.E.I., but the general public also has a right to request and be given the use of space in the sheds.

Supplementary Information to Question 1:

A new lease arrangement is in effect with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Ltd. effective February 1, 1971 for a term or period of two years for space in the Georgetown shed and for an open area on wharf property.

CRIMINAL RECORDS ACT

MOTION FOR STUDY BY LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Earl Hastings moved, pursuant to notice:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs examine and report on the operation and administration of the Criminal Records Act, chapter 40 of the statutes of 1969-70, and in particular upon the operation and administration of subsection (2) of section 4 thereof.

He said: Honourable senators, in addressing myself to the motion and in explaining my motive for bringing this matter to the attention of the Senate, I can do no better than refer to remarks made in this house by my colleague and desk mate, Senator Prowse, as recorded on page 790 of the *Debates of the Senate* and March 29, 1971, when he said:

If we have any responsibility to this country and to this society, I suggest that the highest responsibility we have is not just to sit here and to pass our opinions on laws that come before us but to see aggressively that the laws we make and the way that they are administered reflect credit upon the institutions which they are supposed to protect.

Everything that everyone in this country cherishes depends on the efficacy of our laws. Usually the usefulness of a law depends on the opinion which people have of the law. If we allow arrant abuse to go unchecked, people will rightfully hold the law in very low esteem.

It is in this spirit that I suggest to you that the manner in which the Criminal Records Act is being administered is not such as to reflect credit upon society or upon the Parliament that enacted it. The very worthwhile purpose for which the Criminal Records Act was passed is being defeated in the use of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a law enforcement agency, to carry out the investigative provisions of the act.

The act provides that anyone who has completed his sentence and then has lived a life of good behaviour for