

*Adjournment Motion*

entity, that the government will make the decisions here. I put it to him that his argument, if it has any strength at all, has strength in the existence of a territorial entity capable of dealing with the setting and reviewing of rates in the same fashion as the provincial government. If he uses the argument in the sense that he is urging upon members of the House his view that there is no such thing as the territorial government because the function of rate setting and reviewing will be done here and not at the territorial level, even if his argument is correct, and I will go along with it, then surely the review and the approval should be at the territorial level and not at the federal level.

The minister says that great strides have been made within the act for the purpose of injecting territorial input into the decision-making process, and he cites in support of that the fact that the council will be increased to five members and there will be one member from each of the territories. But that still leaves a majority of three—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but before going on to other business I would like to inform the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil) that there is some doubt as to the acceptability of his amendment. However, a decision will be rendered later.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin):** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Social Security—Proposed eligibility for old age pension at 60; the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche)—Abortion—Suggested investigation of reason for high rate in British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta; the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth)—Northern Affairs—Reason for removal of heavy equipment from Fort Smith vocational training school.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, private bills, public bills.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

● (1700)

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

### LETTER FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO SECRETARY OF STATE RESPECTING GRANT TO WOMEN'S GROUP

The House resumed, from Thursday February 27, consideration of the motion of Mr. Fairweather:

That an order of the House do issue for a copy of a letter written by the Minister of Justice to the Secretary of State, dated October 21, 1974, about a grant to a women's group in Saskatoon.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Madam Speaker, I lend my support to this very worthwhile application by my hon. friend from Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather). I think he is doing this House and the country a great service by being one who persists in presenting to the House and the country the need for a more open system of government in Canada. We must have more candour and more honesty. We have had inflicted on us by ministers, parliamentary secretaries, senior mandarins, junior mandarins and civil servants who have a craving to prepare a great many documents for the purposes of show and tell only, a paper blizzard, documents which say much but inform little. This is the problem we face. There cannot be an informed and intelligent electorate, with a government which is responsive to the needs of the people and which will provide policies to deal with those needs, unless there is a system by which the government is compelled to provide information which is needed.

I have spoken on this subject in this House many times before and I intend to speak about it as often as I can. I see my hon. friend sitting across the floor today who was at the committee where I spoke the other day. I hope that he was persuaded to some extent by what I had to say and that he might be persuaded to agree with me on the views I am about to express.

I do not suggest that the government does not tell us all we want to know because it is a matter of corrupt, evil or bad actions on their part. It is a desire to conceal mistakes; it is a desire to erect a paper curtain behind which the government can operate free from inspection by this House or by the public so that it can make mistakes, be guilty of bad judgment and yet preserve that passion for perfection and the need to appear impeccable, which is the trademark of all mandarins and many of the people in government.

The other day in the committee before which I appeared, I quoted—and I am going to take the time to quote them in this House—some very interesting observations by people and by commissions which amply support the proposition which my hon. friend from Fundy-Royal has brought forward. In 1964, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)—not yet having jumped into the Parliamentary waters but obviously thinking of it, because it was just a few months before he was elected—said this:

Democratic progress requires the ready availability of true and complete information. In this way, people can objectively evaluate their government's policies. To act otherwise is to give way to despotic secrecy—

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear!