

Motions for Papers
THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

● (6:00 p.m.)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

An act to amend the Bank Act and the Quebec Savings Banks Act.

An act to incorporate Evangelistic Tabernacle Incorporated.

An act to authorize the construction of a bridge across the St. Croix River between the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine.

An act to amend the Judges Act.

An act to amend the Admiralty Act.

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1967.

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1966.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago I made the suggestion that we might be well advised to adjourn for a supper hour and return at eight o'clock, with consent. Do we have that consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

● (6:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: It being after six 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 (papers), private bills and public bills.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

NORRIS COMMISSION

The house resumed, from Thursday, February 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Orlikow:

That an order of the house do issue for copies of all the working papers prepared for the Norris commission by the chartered accountants hired by the commission and deposited by Mr. Justice Norris with the Department of Labour.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion the house was discussing the question of the production of papers respecting the Norris commission it was suggested that the house did not have the authority to order such papers tabled by virtue of the legislation itself, which is quite true. It was pointed out by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) that the commission was set up under the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act and that section 56 (5) states specifically with reference to section 33 of that act:

—the information so obtained from such documents shall not, except as the Conciliation Board deems expedient, be made public.

Hon. members will recall that Justice Norris made a full and complete report which ran to two volumes, and I am sure that he made public all relevant matters which he determined to be in the public's interest. Surely to assume otherwise would be to doubt the competency of the Justice himself.

If this motion were to pass it seems to me that the department would have no alternative but to make a nil return. However, since the matter has been discussed at length by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) and other members on this side of the house I will not ask you to make a ruling at this time.

One can only wonder what is behind the determination on the part of the New Democratic Party to reveal all the working papers which formed part of the study of Mr. Justice Norris. It seems to me that this involves a continuing harassment of independent unions not affiliated with the larger bodies, most of whom are making regular contributions to the N.D.P.

In the opening remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg North he said certain things which I feel would justify the assumption that he felt that because donations had been made by the Seafarers' International Union to certain candidates running for parliament there was some sinister motive in the union's action. It was also suggested that because the Seafarers' International Union had made contributions to Liberal candidates it was made much easier for Hal Banks to carry on his nefarious undertakings. At one point, as reported at page 1027 of *Hansard* of February 10, 1966, the hon. member for Winnipeg North said:

I think it is important to establish certain facts.