

problem might more properly be directed to the President of the Treasury Board, but I will say, because it is our office, that in other areas we have similar problems—

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** It exists all over the public service.

**Mr. Cullen:**—where an individual who speaks both languages but is in a designated unilingual position does not get the benefit of the bonus, but performs that particular service. I think it is appropriate that we should be looking at the situation. I think we should do everything we can to help our civil servants, not what the hon. member across there is doing.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Why don't you repeal the damned thing and help the whole country.

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### INDUSTRY

#### PLASTICS—SUGGESTION INDUSTRY BE EXEMPTED FROM TARIFF CUTS

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It has to do with the proposed tariff cuts under the current round of GATT negotiations. As Canada is already the world's largest per capita importer of plastic products, and actually imports more than are imported by the entire population of the United States, will the minister consider exempting the plastic fabrication industry from the tariff cuts at this time in order to protect our own Canadian native product?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, in the tariff negotiations going on now we hope to be able to deal on a sector basis with non-ferrous metals, and that may well include plastics.

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### NORTHERN AFFAIRS

#### REQUEST FOR TABELING OF REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE OF YUKON LEGISLATURE ON REFUSAL OF ASSENT TO CERTAIN BILL

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development I should like to direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. On December 2 I asked the minister if he would table the report of the standing committee on rules, elections and privileges of the Yukon House dealing with the refusal of assent to a bill that had passed all three stages of that House, and the minister said he would be pleased to look at that suggestion. I would ask whether that will be tabled and, if so, when?

**Mr. Ross Milne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Yes, Mr. Speaker,

### Labour Conditions

it is the intention of the minister to table it as soon as translation is completed, very possibly tomorrow.

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### PRIVILEGE

#### ANSWERS BY MINISTER RESPECTING UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please, Yesterday a point of order was raised by the hon. member for Egmont, contributed to by other hon. members, including the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, having to do with the position of the Minister of Employment and Immigration in respect of a reference he made during the course of answers in the question period.

● (1502)

During the exposition of the question of privilege and the speech an application was made. Consistent with previous practices, the minister, having made reference to a document, would be required to table it. The relevant references appear in May's nineteenth edition at page 431, and in citation 159 of Beauchesne's fourth edition. Both references make it clear that the documents which ought to be tabled when cited in debate, in accordance with precedents referred to, are "public documents", "dispatches" or "state papers". Clearly, these citations refer only to official documents.

There is a British case cited in May's eighteenth edition in which a minister was asked to table a written statement and a letter to which he had referred on a previous day in answering a question. The minister replied that he had made the statement on his own responsibility, and he was not obliged to table the document. The Speaker made a ruling accepting that argument. Accordingly, that sets a precedent as well.

In the case presently before us, the hon. minister has been asked to table a transcript of a speech which he gave outside the House. He has given the House, on his own responsibility—to quote from previous precedents—the contents of the speech, which the House must accept. Since the transcript is not a state paper or an official document in any sense, my view today is the same, after referring to the precedents, as it was yesterday. We ought not to extend that precedent to cover the particular situation involved.

During the question period the minister indicated that he would rise on a question of privilege at three o'clock.

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member for York-Simcoe referred to me by something other than the title of my department. I represent approximately 25,000 people in that department. I hope they are as proud of the department as I am. If members opposite want me to answer questions on behalf of the department, I think it is a small courtesy to those 25,000 people, who are working hard, to address me correctly. I am not sensitive as a politician—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Alexander:** Cry baby.