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HOUSE OF COMMONS
OF CANADA

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1969.

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Before calling Bill S-3, an Act to provide for the Dissolution of the Dominion Coal Board and for the repeal of the Canadian Coal Equality Act, the Coal Production Assistance Act and the Dominion Coal Board Act, I have to refer to a procedural discussion which took place in the House during the last few days.

On Thursday last the honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) rose on a point of order to suggest that the provisions of Bill S-3, an Act to provide for the Dissolution of the Dominion Coal Board and for the repeal of the Canadian Coal Equality Act, the Coal Production Assistance Act and the Dominion Coal Board Act, constituted a violation of clauses 53 and 54 of the British North America Act and also of the provisions of two of our most important rules of procedure, Standing Orders 62 and 63.

In his submission the honourable Member contended in particular that the stated purpose of clauses (2) and (3) of the bill dealt with the appropriation of public funds and that this being so, the bill could only be initiated in the House of Commons upon a recommendation of the Crown.

Subsequently on Monday last, the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre debated the point of order and referred in some detail to a number of authorities dealing with the question of appropriating public funds.

I suggest that the honourable gentleman made a lucid and cogent presentation and received the strong support of the honourable Member for Edmonton West.

The honourable the President of the Privy Council, when he entered the discussion on Monday last, quoted citations numbered 449 and 450 of Beauchesne's 3rd edition in relation to proceedings on Bill S-3. Those citations read