

their holdings. This is certainly something which was not required under previous governments.

Some hon. Members: A supplementary question!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Earlier today the President of Privy Council tabled a green paper pertaining to conflict of interest with the intention, at least as disclosed in his remarks, that the matter should be referred to a standing committee. Such an order has not, of course, yet been made by the House, and in these circumstances it would be improper to discourage any questions relating to these guidelines. However, if an order of reference is to be made to the standing committee, once the matter is before a standing committee it ought not to be the subject of questions here.

DATE OF REFERENCE OF SUBJECT MATTER TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question on that very point. Can the President of Privy Council now give us a date on which this reference will be moved? Can he tell us, for example, whether the reference will be moved on Monday next? Or is he still sticking to the position he put forward yesterday that the reference might be moved some time hence, perhaps some months hence, after the House had dealt with other matters which the President of Privy Council considers to be of even greater urgency?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is the President of Privy Council who would consider these other matters to be of greater importance. I think it would be the people of eastern Canada where he happens to live. I believe it is important that there should not be a lapsing of the authority we presently have for the payment of a subsidy affecting eastern Canada to ensure that the price of oil is maintained at a stable level throughout the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: As Leader of the Opposition, and on behalf of my hon. friends in the House, I again tender to the President of Privy Council one of the allotted days assigned to us. If the hon. gentleman could begin, I invite him to screw his courage up to the sticking point and put this reference before the House.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I assure the Leader of the Opposition that I accept his offer. My concern is that the time allotted to the Conservative Party might have been used for other purposes and that we would have to devote other time to discussion of the question of conflict of interest. However, if the hon. gentleman is ready, now, to give up another day—one has already been moved ahead—I would be happy to accept it.

Mr. Baldwin: No days have been given up!

SUGGESTED BROADENING OF DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): In the interim, would the Prime Minister tell us whether consideration

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has been given to making the declaration more meaningful? For example, rather than providing that a frozen trust should simply be disclosed, at least show who the trustee is, and in the case, for example, of a 30 per cent interest in a private company, require the minister to show who owns the other 70 per cent, and what interests that private corporation, in turn, controls.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think these are suggestions which are worthwhile. They are precisely the type of matters which should be discussed in the committee. The opposition seems to forget the point that, in addressing myself to this matter in my statement to the opposition of a year ago, I said all ministers were members of one or the other Houses. We will, of course, as a matter of fact be bound by whatever guidelines the House wants to impose on its members or on their spouses. What the cabinet has done has been to adopt guidelines which we think go considerably further than those that hon. members will want to adopt for themselves.

• (1500)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, we shall see. But when I was speaking about the guidelines relating to ministers I made the statement that this subject would be brought back after we saw the guidelines relating to members, and it might be that we would have to modify them to bring them more into conformity with what members decide to adopt for themselves.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ETHIOPIA—SUGGESTION CANADA MAKE EFFORT TO STOP EXECUTIONS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the secretary of state advise the ambassador of Ethiopia that Canadians are appalled by the summary executions which have taken place in that country, including the execution of the international president of the YMCA, and will the minister tell the House what efforts he is making personally to prevent the execution of the former emperor, which should be stopped if for no other humanitarian reason than that he is a very old and courageous man?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was shocked, as I am sure hon. members were, by developments in Ethiopia, particularly the further projected executions that are being contemplated. I have instructed the officers of the department, in my name and in the name of the Canadian government, to send a message to the powers that be in Ethiopia asking them to exercise restraint and to hold off any further executions.