

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

one—I think it is a request for information and not a request which is intended to embarrass anybody, especially the Prime Minister, who, after all, is seized with great responsibilities—could the information be in some way transmitted to us so that we might be better informed when we meet with our constituents who ask us questions about this subject? This was really the purpose of my question to the Prime Minister the other day, and I think it was the purpose of the question asked by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

We shall be getting a report from the broadcasting committee in the morning. Since the substance of that report has been spread all over hell's half-acre in the press of Canada, I do not suppose there will be anything new in it; it will disturb nobody in particular; people will say they have heard that song before.

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has put on record the question he asked on December 2. He was asking whether or not the government will receive a recommendation from the broadcasting committee in connection with Mr. Saulnier's request for a royal commission on subversion. The difficulty in dealing with the subject tonight is simply this: the committee on broadcasting is a standing committee of the House of Commons; the subject matter was referred to the committee; it is still before the committee. It is quite improper for the House to discuss this matter until the committee reports.

I would point out that it is not the government which receives the recommendations of committees. This committee is a standing committee of the House of Commons which reports back to the House. When the report is received, the government will consider it and take what action is warranted, one way or another. For me to indicate now in answer to a hypothetical question what the government's action would be under certain circumstances would be a breach of the privileges of Parliament.

It has been clearly established over many, many years that it is no part of the function of the government, when a matter is before a standing committee of the House of Commons, to attempt to influence the action of a committee through positions taken in this House. Indeed, were I to answer the question I am quite sure the charge would be levied by the opposition that there was an attempt to influence the decision of the committee.

[Mr. McCleave.]

In light of that, we have no alternative but to wait until we see the report, which I understand will be presented to the House of Commons tomorrow. When it is presented we will consider the matter and the other factors relevant to the whole subject matter and will then take whatever decisions are warranted by the facts.

PESTICIDES—DDT—PLANS FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, on November 25 I asked the following question in the House of Commons:

In view of the recent federal policy statement on the drastic curtailment of the use of DDT in Canada, and in view of the urgent need for an orderly and systematic collection and disposal of DDT now in the possession of many Canadians, I would ask the minister if his department or any government department is preparing plans for the collection and disposal of this surplus DDT now in the possession of Canadians in every part of Canada.

As usual, the federal government has been tardy in announcing its plans in this regard. Already, several provincial governments have announced plans for the collection and disposal of surplus DDT supplies. However much remains to be done, it is urgent that some immediate federal announcements be made in this regard.

As we all know, several weeks ago, the federal government announced restrictions on most uses of DDT. This ban is to come into effect on January 1, 1970. It is obvious that some central and practical plan must be found for the collecting and disposal of DDT, especially those stocks now in the hands of Canadians. It is also urgent that a central and sensible method of either disposing of these stocks or storing them be found. It is urgent that information on the government's plan soon go out to the general public before they start on their own disposal plans and cause a host of local pollution problems. As less than one month remains, it will be necessary for the government to immediately announce their plans to the Canadian people by television, radio and the news media.

Perhaps the following example will show the need for immediate action by the federal authorities. As we know, the province of Ontario has banned the use of DDT. According to the newspapers, the Minister of Energy and Resources in that province has advised the companies with stocks of DDT to move what they cannot sell in Ontario to other branches outside the province. This might be