

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat, for the first time official discussions have taken place, and on the basis of those discussions so far there is at least some possibility, and I can say no more than that, that some agreement might be reached on this very important matter, important not only to members of parliament but to the people of Canada.

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I want to confirm the fact that consultations are presently going on between the four officially recognized parties in the House. After a serious discussion with my colleagues of the Social Credit Party of Canada, we have reached the conclusion that, first of all, the debate on Bill C-44 has been very badly launched and, second, that the proceedings and the propositions relating to Bill C-44 have been ill-reported to the public. I have heard on a CBC program some night this week that the salary of federal members of Parliament would be raised \$47,000, according to the reporter, which is entirely false and constitute demagoguery of the worst kind.

Mr. Speaker, I heard last night someone from the Public Service Alliance of Canada accusing members of Parliament of wanting to grant themselves absurd salary increases. A member of Parliament who knows the facts, who is conscientious, who wants to get down to rock bottom and not just act superficially, must reject such allegations.

I had inquiries made in 11 departments. I found that 3,364 civil servants earn more than \$20,000 a year; 557 earn more than \$30,000 a year and 45, more than \$40,000. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that it is time for the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) to continue current discussions, to prove to the people that the members of the House of Commons are working, not according to some puritan principles or vote-catching manoeuvres, but rather very seriously to defend the public opinion and interests whom they are serving. I am not saying that our party completely agrees with Bill C-44. That is why we are taking an active part in the debate with a view to improving it so that it will serve both the people's interests who suffer from inflation and those of hon. members of this House. Something should be done to stop discrediting members of Parliament before the public, put newspapermen in their place and respect what should be respected.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before leaving motions I should inform hon. members that there are two outstanding matters that have been put to the Chair for rulings. Both matters are extremely important, have caused me considerable concern and have involved me in a considerable amount of research and study. The first matter relates to a point of order raised by the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) concerning the provisions of the excise tax bill as they relate to the ways and means motion. I should like to inform the House that I propose to return to the chair at 5.45 this afternoon to deliver a ruling on that very interesting point of order.

The second point relates to the question of privilege raised yesterday by the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) concerning remarks made some days ago by the

*Industry, Trade and Commerce Act*

hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette). In respect of those, if I understand correctly, and I would like to make this perfectly clear, I will make the ruling on that tomorrow, on the understanding that the matter about which the hon. member for Joliette has complained is that he has been falsely accused by the hon. member for Témiscamingue of having engaged in the practice which was described by the hon. member for Témiscamingue. If I understand that correctly and clearly as the nature of his question of privilege, I propose to deliver judgment on that tomorrow just before orders of the day.

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**PUBLISHING**

SUGGESTED ACTION TO INCREASE CANADIAN OWNERSHIP—  
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION  
UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of figures released yesterday by the Independent Publishers Association showing that foreign ownership in English language book publishing has now risen to 84 per cent and that many of the Canadian owned companies are experiencing serious financial difficulty, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez):

That this House instruct the Secretary of State to introduce new programs designed to expand and strengthen the retail bookstore system, to increase library and school purchases of Canadian titles and to strengthen Canadian copyright laws so that the trend toward increased foreign ownership and dependence on foreign publications may be reversed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the terms of the motion under Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There being no unanimous consent, it cannot be debated.

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**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND  
COMMERCE ACT**

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR DISCLOSURE OF CUSTOMS  
DOCUMENTS TO MINISTER

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce)** moved the first reading of Bill S-15 (from the Senate), to amend the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.