

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 17, 1964

The house met at 11 a.m.

DRUGS AND PESTICIDES

PERSONNEL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre) moved:

That the special committee on food and drugs appointed March 9, 1964, be composed of Messrs. Armstrong, Asselin (Richmond-Wolfe), Basford, Mrs. Casselman, Cote (Longueuil), Enns, Francis, Gauthier, Harley, Horner (Jasper-Edson), Howe (Hamilton South), Jorgenson, Macaluso, Mackasey, Marcoux, Mitchell, Nesbitt, Orlikow, Prud'homme, Roxburgh, Rynard, Slogan, Willoughby and Whelan.

Motion agreed to.

PROCEDURE

SECOND REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

On the order:

April 15—**Mr. Knowles (Acting for the special committee on procedure and organization):**

That the second report of the special committee on procedure and organization, presented on April 15, be now concurred.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, there has been a reasonable request that the presentation of this motion be delayed for one more sitting day. Therefore on behalf of the committee I ask that it stand until Monday.

CANADIAN FLAG

REPORTED ACCEPTANCE BY PRIME MINISTER OF DESIGN

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Could he tell the house whether he has decided to give his support to a Canadian flag having three maple leaves against a white background or to some other design, as reported in this morning's *Globe and Mail*?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I assume that my hon. friend's question is based on a press story that appeared this morning. May I say that that story is entirely speculative. I know, and I

am sure other hon. members know from their own experience, that there has been a great deal of speculation about the design of a Canadian flag for a good many months.

Mr. Balcer: May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the Prime Minister would take the house into his confidence as to what is going on about the flag. Is the matter being handled by a committee of cabinet, or by a committee of the Liberal caucus, or is it being left to that government co-ordinator extraordinary, Mr. Tom Kent?

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can say that there is no committee as stated in the story, which confirms its speculative character. As to what is going on in connection with this matter, that will be announced to the house when a decision has been taken and the house will be asked to take its responsibility in this matter as the government must take its responsibility. The government is pledged to make a recommendation on this matter within two years of coming into office. We have now been in office almost one year.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I suggest to hon. members that I have grave doubt whether the question is that pressing. It is an emotional question and a very important one, but it seems to me we should not be extending discussion on it at this time.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, further to the question asked by the hon. member for Three Rivers, I wonder whether the Secretary of State could tell the house how many flag designs or suggestions he has received approximately since his party has been in office. Two thousand, 3,000?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the hon. member did not hear my suggestion that this matter could not reasonably be considered that pressing.

PENSIONS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the