

*Government Foreign Ownership Policy Leak*

Obviously the minister lost that battle.

The Prime Minister has been telling us in the House and outside the House, and so have other members of the government, that this supporting material must be available. That is the basis upon which up to this time the government has declined to publish the policy. We now find that the supporting material is, in fact, no more than the Gray report which has been in the hands of the government for at least four months. The fact is that when it was leaked in the *Canadian Forum* it has obviously been in the hands of the government for some time. The report in today's *Star* goes on to say:

• (1410)

—delays in editing the Gray report, called the "Memorandum on Domestic Control of the National Economic Environment", have held up the announcement.

I think Your Honour should take judicial notice that what is happening is this. Rather than it being a case of having new supporting material in order to back up the decision it has made, the government is attempting to revise and edit the Gray report so as to make it more acceptable and to work it into the basis of the policy that it is going to announce.

In conclusion, considering the total effect of both arguments, I submit to Your Honour that there has in fact been a breach of privilege affecting all members of this House. The leaks continue and a cloud of suspicion hangs over all members. The government has taken no action effectively to stop this process. The Prime Minister and the Acting Prime Minister have made evasive, misleading and conflicting statements in relation to the release date of government policy which is still undergoing the leak process, and the government will only clear the air by making a full and complete disclosure of that general policy.

I submit that Your Honour has a duty to safeguard the rights of the members of this House, and that the government is under compulsion either to disclose the policy immediately or to stand guilty of its conduct of confusion and deception with which I have charged the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Peace River has given the Chair the notice required under the terms of the Standing Order. This has given me the opportunity in the meantime to consider some of the points which have been advanced by the hon. member at this time and to consider as well the arguments which were proposed for the consideration of the House and the Chair when a similar question of privilege was raised previously.

I have to tell the hon. member and the House that I cannot reach the same conclusion as that reached by the hon. member for Peace River, namely, that there is a *prima facie* case of privilege. There may be a grievance. The circumstances that the hon. member has described may well form the foundation for a non-confidence motion. But I cannot see how this type of situation can or should be considered by the House by way of a breach of parliamentary privilege.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

I add that in my view the arguments advanced by the hon. member are essentially debate, and I would think that there should be in the foreseeable future, even in the course of the present debate, an opportunity for the hon. member and other hon. members to consider the matter to which he has alluded.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### MAIN ESTIMATES, 1972-73

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1973, was presented by Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) and read by Mr. Speaker to the House.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, in tabling the main estimates for 1972-73 I should like to advise the House that they amount in total to \$15,749 million in budgetary expenditures. About one half of this amount, \$7,640 million, is statutory in nature in that it follows from legislation previously passed by parliament and still in force. The remaining \$8,109 million will require authorization under new appropriation acts.

The blue book which has just been tabled carries a forecast of the budgetary expenditures for the fiscal year which is now coming to an end. These amount in total to \$15,058 million, almost exactly \$700 million less than the estimates for the new year. Almost one half the difference arises from statutory items and in particular from the statutory items covering transfers to the provinces, or arrangements under which the federal government shares with the provinces costs of health, welfare and educational programs.

Increases in non-statutory items, other than those required to maintain levels of service with rising costs and greater demands, emphasize the government's concerns. Prominent examples are: Regional Economic Expansion, Department of the Environment, Indian and Eskimo Affairs, Northern Development and Canadian International Development.

A specific provision of \$62 million is made for student summer employment over and above about \$23 million set aside for this purpose in departmental budgets.

The estimates also cover \$790 million in non-budgetary expenditures, that is, in loans, investments and advances, for which it is necessary to seek appropriation authority from parliament. This does not cover all non-budgetary expenditures. There are other expenditures of this nature, not shown anywhere in estimates, which may be made pursuant to legislation now in force such as the National Housing Act.

There is a small but important addition this year to the amount of information contained in the estimates. There are several instances in which programs generate revenues. In the past the only information supplied in estimates