

a special purpose, but when it is general, in view of the resolution unanimously adopted yesterday, I believe this motion is out of order. That is why I have asked for the opinion of the Speaker.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—The ground the hon. gentleman takes is that the motion is out of order inasmuch as a similar motion was passed yesterday?

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—No, the ground I take is that yesterday in the resolution adopted unanimously, the committees have a right to report on any question which has been specially referred to them by this House, but not otherwise. If the hon. member from Halifax, by his motion, were asking for a special thing to be referred to the Contingent Accounts Committee, he would be all right, but when he comes to this House with a motion asking full leave to discuss a report on any question, without its having been referred to the committee by this House, I believe he is out of order.

The SPEAKER—The House yesterday adopted a motion moved by the Hon. Mr. Loughheed, which will be found at page 32 of the Minutes, and which is as follows:

That the Senators mentioned in the report of the Committee of Selection as having been chosen to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session, be and they are hereby appointed to form part of and constitute the several committees with which their respective names appear in said report, to inquire into and report upon such matters as may be referred to them from time to time; and the Committee on Standing Orders is authorized to send for persons, papers and records whenever required.

I do not see in that motion, that the Committee on Standing Orders has more power than the other committees to report on any question, except that it is authorized to send for persons, papers, and records, when required. I do not give to that motion the broad construction that was put upon it by the hon. member from Halifax, when he discussed this question.

Now the motion proposed by the Hon. Mr. Power is—

That the Standing Committee on Internal Economy and Contingent Accounts be authorized to meet when and as often as it may deem necessary and, without special reference, to inquire into and report upon such matters connected with the internal economy of the Senate as it may think in the interest of the House.

In comparing these two motions I find that in the first place the Committee on Internal Economy, as all the other commit-

tees of the House, are prevented from making any report except on questions specially referred to them. In the second place by this motion I find that the Committee on Internal Economy, will be authorized to make any report they want to make, without the question being referred to them. So, in one place, the committee is barred from that power, and in the other case it is granted that power. I think the two motions are conflicting, and it is a Parliamentary rule that, in one and the same session, a thing which has been submitted to the House cannot come up a second time. Bourinot at page 451 says:

When a motion has been stated by the Speaker to the House and proposes a question for its determination, it is then in the possession of the House to be decided or otherwise disposed of according to the established forms of proceeding.

And at page 452:

The old rule of Parliament reads that a question being once made and carried in the affirmative or negative cannot be questioned again but must stand as the judgment of the House. Unless such a rule were in effect at the time of the House would be constantly frittered away in the discussion of motions of the same nature, and the most contradictory decisions would be arrived at in the course of the same session.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—If I understand the drift of his honour's argument rightly, it is that by passing this motion to-day it would be conflicting with one that was passed yesterday. The motion of yesterday commands the committees to deal with matters referred to them by the House, this committee as well as the others.

The SPEAKER—Yes.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—This motion does not cut that out, but it adds more power to this committee to deal with matters which come within the four corners of their usefulness. For instance, a charwoman has suddenly to be appointed, and the House has not recommended that appointment. If this motion should pass, the Committee on Internal Economy would take the matter up, and recommend it to the House.

The SPEAKER—Yes, if there were no other way.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG—If we adhere to the first resolution, we would have to refer it to them. I want to hear his honour's views on that phase of the question—that is, as to the two motions conflicting.