

Motions for Papers

not refer to No. 146, but if the same circumstance applies I would consent to have that motion withdrawn also.

Mr. O'Connell: It does apply.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion No. 141 transferred for debate.

Motions Nos. 137, 139, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146 and 147 withdrawn.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STUDY BY
PROFESSOR G. PAQUETTE

Motion No. 157—Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the consultant study by Professor G. Paquette of Carleton University on Canada's Unemployment Insurance Program.

Mr. Jim McNulty (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, Professor G. Paquet of Carleton University participated as a member of a team reviewing long-term plans for the unemployment insurance program. The Unemployment Insurance Commission produced working papers as a basis for recommendations which are the subject of consideration by the government as indicated in the Speech from the Throne. These working documents were not designed for publication but as a basis for developing proposals with the Minister of Labour. The substance of these proposals will be presented in the form of a white paper. On this assurance, perhaps the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre may wish to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I would prefer that the motion stand until we have seen the white paper.

Mr. Speaker: Stand.

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN APPEAL
PROCEDURES

Motion No. 159—Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the list of actual appeal procedures prepared by the Department of National Health and Welfare for use by the provincial governments in connection with the Canada Assistance Plan.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, no list of actual appeal procedures has been prepared by the Department of National Health and Welfare for use

[Mr. Burton.]

by the provincial governments in connection with the Canada Assistance Plan. The development of such procedures is the responsibility of the provinces. Under agreements made pursuant to the Canada Assistance Plan, the provinces are obligated to provide by law procedures for appeals from decisions with respect to applications for and the provision of assistance, by persons affected by such decisions. A copy of existing procedures, as set out in provincial assistance statutes and regulations, was tabled in the House on October 22, 1969. Under the circumstances the hon. member is requested to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in connection with this procedure. So long as hon. members on my left possess a certain degree of curiosity which the government is unable to satisfy, these motions will appear on the Order Paper. I submit that under our Standing Orders there can be no debate. What we have been hearing today is a series of miniature debates. With deference, I contend that the courses open to the government are clear: there is a right to accept a motion, to have it transferred for debate or to reject it. One of these courses should be taken without all these explanations.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that we have been following a far more sensible way of carrying on our business, that it is far better for an explanation to be given publicly in order that hon. members may be satisfied as to the reasons for having a motion dropped. I suggest, too, that this practice comes well within the rules and that it should be continued.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Baldwin: It is not within the rules.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the point made by both hon. members is well taken. I have had occasion previously to suggest to Parliamentary Secretaries that their explanations be as brief as possible so as not to lead to unnecessary debate. It is a question of judgment in each instance whether the House is engaging in debate or is being given a brief explanation. I hope that the Parliamentary Secretaries or ministers who think it necessary to give explanations will keep such explanations as brief as possible. Motion 159 is dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.