

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. MacEachen,—That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 20 Members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the Special Joint Committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its Members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

And on the motion of Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Jarvis, in amendment thereto,—That the motion be amended by striking out (a) the words "Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons" in the first paragraph and substituting therefor the words "Special Committee of this House", (b) the word "Joint" in the second paragraph, and (c) the fourth paragraph.

And debate continuing;

[At 5.00 o'clock p.m., Private Members' Business was called pursuant to Standing Order 15(4)]

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members will recall that when 120 Private Members' Public Bills were introduced last Monday in accordance with a long standing practice, since it was not possible for the Chair to review the provisions of each and every one to determine their procedural acceptability, it was agreed that they should be deemed to be introduced, given first reading, and ordered to be printed subject to subsequent examination.

I have now had an opportunity to examine most of these bills and should like to enumerate a number of them which, in my view at least, appear to be money bills.

Initially there is the second item on the list of public bills, Bill C-6, An Act to amend the National Housing Act, in the name of the honourable member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) and number 24, introduced by the honourable member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald).

There is No. 26, Bill No. C-30, introduced by the honourable Member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart); No. 29, An Act to provide for the constitution of a Federal Transport Commission of Inquiry; and a bill standing in the name of the honourable Member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt), An Act respecting rate fares for disabled persons on federal modes of transport, which is No. 41 on the list.

I am afraid that not too many of those further down the list will be reached, but there is also No. 88, An Act to establish a Newfoundland Crossing Authority, standing in the name of the honourable Member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall).

These items will of course be allowed to remain on the list. I am not making a final ruling on them now, but if honourable Members will look closely at the bills I have enumerated they will see that in many instances, if not in all instances, they appear to be money bills or encroach upon the financial initiatives of the Crown.

What I propose to do is leave them on the Order Paper at the present time, and when they are called, starting with the one when we next have Private Members' Public Bills, in the name of the honourable Member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander), I will hear argument as to whether that bill is a money bill and because of that whether it should be accepted for debate in the House. I am not making a ruling now, but I would be delighted to hear the arguments of hon. members who perhaps might be able to convince the Chair that the original judgment made at this time is not correct. We will now proceed with the first item under Private Members' Public Bills.

(Public Bills)

The Order being read for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration of Bill C-5, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act (information to employees);

Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Benjamin, moved,—That the said bill be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

And debate arising thereon;

The hour for Private Members' Business expired.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. MacEachen,—That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be