

Inquiries of the Ministry

I would therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw her motion.

[English]

Mrs. MacInnis: If the Parliamentary Secretary can assure me that the provinces have refused to give their consent I will be glad to withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Is the motion withdrawn?

Mrs. MacInnis: Did I understand correctly that they have refused to give their consent?

Mr. Isabelle: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

STUDY ON TEXTILES

Motion No. 139—**Mr. Gilbert:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the study on textiles as reported in the Annual Report of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, April 1, 1967-March 31, 1968, on pages 51-52.

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce had indicated to the hon. member in previous responses, this study contains information provided in confidence to the department on the understanding that it not be disclosed. Such disclosure would prejudice the department's ability to obtain similar information in the future. In view of this, the minister would ask the member if he would not reconsider and kindly withdraw his motion.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the public would like the information and I would therefore ask for the vote.

Mr. MacEachen: Transfer for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

Shall the remaining notices of motions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLICY RESPECTING ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO KIDNAPPERS OF JAMES CROSS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what the policy of the government is with regard to the issuance of passports to the terrorists who kidnapped James Cross and who have left this country for Cuba?

[Mr. Isabelle.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the kidnappers did not leave Canada with passports.

Mr. Stanfield: I did not say that.

Mr. Sharp: They left with documents entitling them to travel. They have no passports.

Mr. Stanfield: I did not suggest they had. I asked the minister what the policy of the government would be with regard to the issuance of passports to these people?

Mr. Sharp: I imagine they would be turned down, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that the Secretary of State for External Affairs can give no answer except to draw on his imagination?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to intervene at this moment. I would think that the further supplementary is hypothetical.

RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND ALGIERS IN LIGHT OF TRAINING OF TERRORISTS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Yesterday I directed a question to the Prime Minister concerning Canada's relationship with Cuba and Algeria with regard to the FLQ. Inasmuch as the question involves several departments, specifically the Department of External Affairs and that of the Solicitor General, the Prime Minister indicated that if the question were directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs he would have an answer. I wonder if the minister has an answer.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): If the hon. member will ask his question, Mr. Speaker, I will try to answer it.

Mr. Nesbitt: In view of Canada's full diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Algeria and the repeated allegations in the media that terrorists from Quebec are being trained in these countries and returning to Canada—in the latest instance they have returned to Cuba—and as many questions are being asked in this regard by the Canadian people, will the minister clearly state whether these allegations that terrorists are being trained in these countries are true? If not true—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this occasion to express the gratitude of the government of Canada to the government of Cuba for the way they have co-operated.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: I say this because there have been suggestions that the actions of the government of Cuba were somehow reprehensible. I want to make it clear that they acted on our request and on our request only. I have every reason to believe that this friendly country would not act in such a way as to be hostile to Canada.