[Text]

COPY OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CLIMATE ANALYSIS REPORT

Motion No. 52-Mr. Dinsdale:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the Post Office Department, Climate Analysis Report carried out by Hay Associates Limited of Toronto, Ontario in October 1975.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Climate Analysis Report carried out by Hay Associates Limited of Toronto is for departmental use only and confidential in nature. I therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

[Text]

COPY OF LEGAL OPINION CONCERNING LATEST POSTAL RATE INCREASES

Motion No. 53-Mr. Dinsdale:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the legal opinion concerning the legality of the lastest postal rate increases, given by the Department of Justice to the Post Office Department.

[English]

Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the legal advice provided by law officers of the Crown on a matter of state policy falls into the class of confidential documents. I would therefore ask the hon. member for Brandon-Souris to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Last Wednesday at this time I drew attention to the fact that notices of motions Nos. 7 to 43 appearing on the order paper had not been answered. There has been no response or comment made with respect to these notices. At that time the parliamentary secretary stated that he would follow up on the matter and notify us when he had received word from the department. I was wondering whether the parliamentary secretary today could indicate to what extent he has been pressing the department for a response to these notices, bearing in mind there is an appeal pending with respect to Chief Justice Evans' decision. Some of these documents would be very helpful in framing that appeal.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I remember that last week I said to the hon. member that he alone had monopolized two thirds of the notices of motions on the order paper. I had then asked him to be patient. I think that if his patience can last another week, he has excellent chances of getting satisfaction next week.

Income Tax

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motions for the production of documents be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND BILL C-II

The House resumed, from Tuesday, December 6, consideration in committee of Bill C-11, to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to provide other authority for the raising of funds—Mr. Chrétien—Mr. Turner in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. When the committee rose on Tuesday, December 6, 1977, clause 14, with amendments, was under consideration.

On clause 14.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I hope the committee will note that we have lost one hour and 20 minutes of our time, substantially due to a question of privilege raised by a minister of the Crown. I hope the Minister of Finance will bear this in mind and consider extending closure time, if necessary, in view of the fact that this is an extremely important bill. We have 116 clauses to deal with and we are only on clause 14. It is most unfortunate, when we are put under closure and gagged, to find that now is the time ministers choose to raise rather spurious questions of privilege in order to delay the House still further.

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Chairman, at ten o'clock last night I was on my feet on this particular clause.

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Chairman, when ten o'clock was called last night I was questioning the minister on insurance items which are of great interest to a good many people in Canada. I commended him, much to the chagrin of some of my colleagues, on what he had done in allowing interest on business loans as a deductible expense, and other items which have been approved. I pointed out to the minister that the government had gone a considerable distance with the request of the opposition and of a great many members on his own side of the House. I said that in view of this step the great majority of the loans made on insurance policies would be made on policies of the type where no portion of the loan could be declared to be an investment but would have to be added into taxable income.