

Motions for Papers

the estimates of my department come up for discussion.

On that understanding I have been assured that the hon. member will withdraw the motion.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I discussed this matter with the minister, and in view of his explanation as to the confidential nature of the correspondence and the potential consequences which may follow a revelation of the information received from the R.C.M.P., I seek the unanimous consent of the house to withdraw this motion.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, in spite of the remarks that have been made, because of the interest that has been shown in this matter I think it would be better if this motion were presented.

Mr. Speaker: I understand there has been a request that the motion be dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

EFFECT OF U.S. ACT ON CANADIAN
PRINTING INDUSTRY

Motion No. 125—**Mr. Knowles:**

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of all letters or briefs, dated since April, 1963, addressed to the government of Canada or any minister or department thereof, by provincial governments or any associations, federations, institutes or societies, concerning the effects of the manufacturing clause of the United States Copyright Act on the printing industry in Canada, and a copy of the replies thereto.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, subject to the usual reservations, that in respect of documents emanating from provincial governments consent must first be obtained and that any correspondence which might adversely affect the competitive position of persons or firms is regarded as confidential, the motion is acceptable.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to those reservations. The second one is quite in keeping with the terms of the motion. I am not asking for correspondence with individual firms but rather with associations of firms and other groups or organizations.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the motion be adopted subject to the reservations expressed by the minister?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Nicholson.]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to motion No. 121 which appears in the name of the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams). This motion was signed by him in my unavoidable absence but in essence it is my motion. Since it is my opinion that most, if not all, of the information requested is at hand I should like to know why the motion has not been allowed to proceed. Does the government intend to wait until it obtains the information before allowing the motion? I think this is a fair question to put, because after all this is to be an order of the house, not an order of the government.

Mr. Pickersgill: The motion is in the name of another member.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SPENCE ROYAL COMMISSION—OBTAINING OF
EVIDENCE AND APPOINTMENT OF
COMMISSIONER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Will he inquire from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as to how it obtained certain evidence being considered by the Spence inquiry to ensure that it was not obtained by means of a telephone tap and an electronic listening device in the Montreal apartment of Mrs. Gerda Munsinger, both of which practices are illegal?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I must fall back on the answer which has been given in this house on many previous occasions by other ministers charged with the responsibility of answering in the House of Commons regarding the methods of investigation used by the R.C.M.P. It would not be in the public interest to disclose these methods of investigation.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the unparalleled and unjustifiable manner in which the inquisition is being carried out by Mr. Justice Spence, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister to produce any correspondence regarding the appointment of this judge, and to tell the house whether before the judge accepted the appointment the Chief Justice of Canada was consulted?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister personally whether he communicated with the judge