

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

---

**Thursday, February 29, 1968**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### PRIVILEGE

MR. TUCKER—PRESENCE IN HOUSE FOR  
VOTE ON BILL C-193

**Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I feel I should rise on a question of privilege. Several articles in newspapers have indicated that I was absent on Friday, February 19, when the vote was taken on third reading of Bill No. C-193, to amend the Income Tax Act. This was not the case; I was in the chamber.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It was Monday, not Friday.

**Mr. Tucker:** I thank the hon. member: Monday, February 19. When the two votes were taken that day I was in my place. As a matter of fact, as reported at page 6893 of *Hansard* I said:

Mr. Chairman, had I voted I would have voted for the bill.

That was the vote on clause 5, which was taken just before 6 p.m.

When the standing vote was taken on third reading of the bill at about 8.20 p.m. I was in my seat but failed to get the Speaker's attention after the vote. I did not vote on the motion for third reading, even though I was in the chamber and sitting in my seat, because I was paired. Had I voted, Mr. Speaker, I would have voted for the bill.

### LABOUR RELATIONS

TABLING OF REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON  
LABOUR-MANAGEMENT LAW

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to table the progress report prepared by the task force on labour relations that some days ago the Prime Minister assured the house would be tabled at an early date. This report indicates that the task force is well advanced in a thorough examination of industrial relations policies, problems and practices.

An extensive and important program of basic studies is outlined in an appendix to the report. These studies and the discussions

being held with union, employer and government groups in all parts of the country will undoubtedly assist the task force in dealing with the major issues set forth in this initial report, including special problems which may arise in the case of disputes in essential industries. The task force has undertaken to complete its work by the end of this year.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the tabling of this report by the government is not to be regarded as establishing a precedent. There will no doubt be occasions in the future when the government may decide not to table reports of task forces. A major purpose of the work of such special consultants frequently is to provide advice on the formulation of government policy, and it is the policy itself, decided upon after full consideration of the advice available to it, which a government must, of course, make clear to the house and the country as a whole. In some circumstances, however, it will also be desirable, in the interests of greater public awareness and understanding of complex issues, to make public the texts of reports by the task forces or other consultants. Hence the tabling of this report, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, the tabling of the report at this time is, I suggest, a somewhat curious step. Perhaps it is meant to bring about some retroactive or advanced blessing for the promise of the Prime Minister a year ago that this report would be before us prior to the introduction of major legislation in the field of labour.

Until we have seen the report we will not know how much it impinges on Bill No. C-186, the very controversial measure that is now being studied by a house committee. However, in his brief statement the minister did refer to the fact that the report dealt with disputes in essential industries, and this is one of the problems that has bothered members of that particular committee in the issue it is facing. We will withhold further judgment on the report until it is studied, but I think it is regrettable that the final study, not just an interim study, was not before us prior to the introduction of the measure of the house.