

## NORTHERN CANADA TOUR BY UNITED STATES GROUP

Motion No. 262—**Mr. Harding:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all correspondence, or memoranda in relation to the tour of Northern Canada by a group of sixty-eight Americans including Senator Frank Moss in the month of June, 1969.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I am informed that a search of departmental files has revealed that there exists no correspondence within the purview of this motion. The motion is, therefore, not acceptable to the government and it is hoped that the hon. member might wish to withdraw his motion.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

## COMBINES—EXCLUSION OF SERVICE INDUSTRIES FROM ACT

Motion No. 270—**Mr. Orlikow:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the study undertaken by the Combines Investigation Branch and forwarded to the Economic Council regarding the implications of the exclusion of service industries from the Combines Investigation Act.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the study referred to in this motion was prepared for internal use in the department and was passed to the staff of the Economic Council of Canada to assist the Council in the reference by the government to the Council for a report on competition policy. It is considered to be a privileged document and in view of this I would ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the remaining motions, if any, be stood.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## INCREASED PENSIONS TO MEET COST OF LIVING

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the government decided to take any immediate action to relate old age security and other pension payments more appropriately to the real increase

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

in the cost of living which has been at the rate of about 5 per cent for the past several years and which has increased already this year by 3.5 per cent?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No immediate action is contemplated.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is the government reconsidering the 2 per cent ceiling on cost of living adjustments under the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Act? If so, when may we expect a decision to be made with regard to these matters in view of the fact that pensioners who depend on this income seem to be steadily losing ground in competition with the cost of living.

**Mr. Munro:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, this is part and parcel of the over-all review of which he is aware. When the government has come to a decision on policy matters of this kind it will be announced in the house.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I have one further supplementary question. Does the hon. minister think these people can exist on government reviews?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is argumentative.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder if I may address it to the Prime Minister. In view of the problems facing all our older and retired people, the old age pensioners, the retired civil servants, veterans on the war veterans allowance and so on, can we expect action to increase the pensions of these people early in the new session?

**Mr. Speaker:** It seems to me the hon. member has simply reiterated the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the previous question had to do with only one phase, namely the 2 per cent cost of living bonus. I am asking about a general increase in pensions across the board.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The program for the next session will be announced in the Speech from the Throne and subsequent speeches. Therefore I suggest that the hon. member is a little premature with his question.