

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 20, 1970

The House met at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

PROCEDURAL IMPLICATIONS OF FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I be permitted to refer at this time to the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates which appears in yesterday's *Votes and Proceedings* and is reported at page 615. The Chair has looked at this report, and I have to inform the House that I have serious misgivings as to its procedural implications. It has procedural implications not only because it appears to go beyond the terms of the royal recommendation but also because it might complicate things next week in view of the timetable for supply proceedings.

I would think that the House Leaders may want to consult in this regard. I will be in touch with them so that some decision may be reached on whether there may be some way by which this report can be considered by the House or amended, according to the wish of hon. members.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I comment very briefly. I had this thought in mind, and I realize that when we get into supplementary estimates items of this kind can create many problems. I am not going to go into detail now, but I do feel that discussion might be resumed later. On behalf of our party I believe I can indicate that, if the government is willing to make certain approaches with regard to waivers of some of the Standing Orders, then in effect any defect may be cured. However, I think the matter should be discussed on the floor of the House, and so there will be no repetition I shall defer my remarks till either later today or Monday.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

Fourth and fifth reports of Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence—Mr. Wahn.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above reports see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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INFORMATION CANADA

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 2, of Standing Order 41 I wish to lay upon the table a copy, in each official language, of a public announcement which I will be making immediately to the effect that it is the government's intention to appoint as the first director of Information Canada, effective April 1 next, Mr. Jean-Louis Gagnon, distinguished Canadian journalist.

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE AND PUISNE JUDGE

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in announcing on behalf of the Prime Minister, who is absent in Winnipeg, the appointment of the Honourable Gérald Fauteux, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, to be Chief Justice of Canada, succeeding the Right Honourable John Robert Cartwright who will cease to hold office on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday, Monday, March 23.

• (11:10 a.m.)

Hon. members will understand that it is only a long and respected tradition that restrains me from speaking as I would wish in this place in high praise of the retiring Chief Justice. Until such time as Chief Justice Cartwright completes his active duty on the bench, I feel it is perhaps inappropriate for me to make the kind of comment I would wish to make on the outstanding contribution he has made to his court and to Canada during his tenure as Chief Justice.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McIlraith: I may say, however, Mr. Speaker, that at this very hour during Chief Justice Cartwright's final appearance on the bench as the Chief Justice of Canada my colleague the Minister of Justice is leading the ceremonies of tribute before the Supreme Court in acknowledgement of his services to the people of Canada.

I am glad to say that the new Chief Justice has already enjoyed a long and honourable judicial career, having been first appointed as