Inquiries of the Ministry

under government orders, which is the resolution that the report of the committee appointed September 8, 1965, to survey the organization and work of the Canadian Pension Commission, tabled on March 26, 1968, be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. If there is unanimous agreement in the house I wonder if this could be made an order of the house.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT OF CANADIAN OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41, section (2), I wish to table the nineteenth annual report of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, including its accounts and financial statements certified by the Auditor General, for the year ended March 31, 1969, pursuant to sections 22 and 23 (1) of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Act, chapter 42, and sections 85 (3) and 87 (3) of the Financial Administration Act, chapter 116, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952.

PRIVILEGE

MR. McCLEAVE—ALLEGED IRREGULARITY IN INDICATING DISSENT FROM HOUSE DECISIONS

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, may I make a correction in *Hansard*. It concerns the motion for concurrence in the main estimates for 1969-70. Throughout the brief report of the proceedings one member is reported as saying "On division", and that member is named. I think the house and the country should know that there were a great number of us who said "on division", at all stages of that proceeding.

MR. DIEFENBAKER—ALLEGED FAILURE TO SUPPLY COMPLETE INFORMATION IN ANSWER TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege arising out of an answer given yesterday, as reported at page 10592, to question 2,379. The question asked for information on the expenditures that were made for storage of wheat in all the facilities for storage, month by month, since January 1, 1967. The answer given was that in the year 1966-67 the total amount was $29,583,000; the storage in 1967-68 cost $44,389,000. No answers was supplied in regard to the year 1968-69, although ten months of the year had passed.

I suggest that this question should be put back on the order paper, for the answer given by the Wheat Board is most evasive, to say the least. Indeed, one wonders whether the answer was given in that way in order to conceal the fabulous increase in storage during the last year owing to the loss of markets and other reasons.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, on the same question of privilege, could I draw attention to the final sentence of the answer, which reads:

> The amount of storage costs incurred by the board on wheat in the 1968/69 crop year is not yet available.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I answer that immediately. The question was asked on May 27. I did not ask about the entire crop; I asked for the amount for this year, as of that date. The hon. gentleman's attempt to cover up the answer which was given does not help us to arrive at accurate figures.

● (3:00 p.m.)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONSULTATIONS ON TRANSFER TO PROVINCES OF CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES— TIME TABLE—APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER—VIEWS OF BROTHERHOOD

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development concerning the statement issued yesterday. Were the provinces or the Indian people asked in advance for their views on the specific proposal to transfer constitutional responsibility for Indian programs and services to the provinces? I am asking the minister about that specific proposal and about the degree to which agreement was sought before the proposal was made.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, our consultations with the Indian people