

Price Index for Canada for August 1973 as domestic factors accounting for the trends in food prices in Canada; and to make any revisions thereby necessitated in the said Report for presentation to this House as quickly as possible.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I am afraid I must disappoint the amiable Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) who appears intent on supporting the procedural acceptability of the amendment moved by the honourable Member for St. Paul's (Mr. Atkey). I find it difficult to disagree with the ruling delivered to the House this afternoon by the honourable The Deputy Speaker. I do not agree with the honourable Member for St. Paul's when he says that this was a precedent. I am sure that there can be found many precedents in the history of our deliberations to indicate that this kind of decision having reference to a proposed amendment to reports from standing committees has been made in the House.

The honourable Member for St. Paul's first gave to the Chair notice of his proposed amendment. I heard him reading the amendment. It seems to me at first blush, and at second blush, and perhaps at last blush, that this is an entirely new question. The honourable Member must appreciate that there were terms of reference agreed to by this House going back, I believe, to January 23. Honourable Members by amendments or suggested amendments to a committee report, or to a motion to do with a committee report, cannot try to rewrite the terms of reference which were agreed to by the House.

I heard earlier during this debate, perhaps at the opening of this debate while the honourable Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) had the floor, the suggestion that there should be an appreciation by the House of the work being done by the committees and an appreciation of the reports which are being made by the committees. I agreed very much with the thoughts expressed by the honourable Member for St. John's East at the time. If the House agrees, I think we can go along with this idea by accepting the recommendation which has been made to us by a Committee, and considering it at least, and then voting either for or against it. If that is the will of the House it is a decision which the House has to make. However, to come before us with an amendment such as the one proposed by the honourable Member for St. Paul's, which is an entirely new question, which I respectfully suggest to him has nothing at all to do with the recommendation that has come to us from an excellent Committee making an excellent report, that report having been proposed for the consideration of the House and the acceptance of the House by the honourable Member for St. John's East, is not in accordance with the customs, traditions and practices of the House.

I suggest to the honourable Member that what he is asking us at the present time to do is not to amend the motion before the House but to amend the decision of the

House taken by this assembly on January 23. On that basis I find that the amendment cannot be accepted.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Baldwin,—That the Second Report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, presented to the House on Wednesday, July 25, 1973, be concurred in.

And debate continuing;

(Proceedings on Adjournment Motion)

At 10.04 o'clock p.m., the question "That this House do now adjourn" was deemed to have been proposed pursuant to Standing Order 40(1);

After debate the said question was deemed to have been adopted.

Changes in Committee Membership

Notice having been filed with the Clerk of the House pursuant to Standing Order 65(4)(b), membership of Committees was amended as follows:

Mr. Morgan for Mr. Higson on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Neil (Moose Jaw) for Mr. Taylor on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Knight for Mr. Grier on the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices.

Mr. McKinnon for Mr. Nielsen on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. McKinley for Mr. Ritchie on the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Returns and Reports Deposited with the Clerk of the House

The following paper having been deposited with the Clerk of the House was laid upon the Table pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), namely:

By Mr. Jamieson, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council,—Report on the Operation of the Regional Development Incentives Act for the month of July, 1973, pursuant to section 16 of the said Act, chapter R-3, R.S.C., 1970. (English and French).—Sessional Paper No. 291-1/327A.

At 10.30 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned until tomorrow at 2.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).