

level or at the public service level. I think something must be done to bring that point of view to this whole discussion of the conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, I am about to sit down.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That kind of remark can always be counted on to draw applause, but I think it is particularly to be noted that when I complained about persons with a financial interest being in a spot to influence government policy, and then said I was about to sit down, the applause came from the Tories.

I want to associate myself with what the Leader of the Opposition said about this whole subject being considered in the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. I should like to go a little further, however. Instead of just saying it ought to be done, I would call upon the President of the Privy Council, when he presents his motion for the reference of the July 17 green paper to the standing committee, to amend that motion to include in it a reference to that committee of the statement made by the Prime Minister on July 17 regarding cabinet ministers and also the statement made and Order in Council tabled today. That committee should have the opportunity to go thoroughly into the whole subject before us today, the important question of conflict of interest and its relationship to public policy.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) concerning the conflicts of interest as well as that on the publication of guidelines which will help protect Canadian public servants against any suspicion.

Mr. Speaker, public servants must be protected against any suspicion in carrying out their duties, considering their importance. Hon. members and governments follow one another, but public servants remain. Some officials have been in the government service for 25 or 30 years irrespective of political parties. Those people are important and we must recognize it. They are not subjected to changes as we are whether we are Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, New Democrats or Social Crediters. This is why the civil service must continue to serve the country, hence the importance of its behaviour before the people of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in the various departments where the public servants more or less rule the roost, I believe we should add another point to the eight set out by the Prime Minister, that is administrative control. For instance, because I received two rather important complaints, I am personally conducting an inquiry concerning some Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation employees who, I am told, receive bribes when they recommend the development of such and such a housing project, in two places in the province of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, when I have conclusive evidence, I shall name the persons involved on the floor of the House.

I want to draw the attention of the House to another point. The Prime Minister recommends the following, and I quote:

Local Initiatives Grants

—that standards and procedures for employees of the House of Commons be referred to the Commissioners for Internal Economy and for employees of the Senate, to the Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we are asking too much from the Internal Economy Committee. It is already bogged down in its work. Here is striking proof of it. For three years now I have been asking for a press attaché. All the other parties have one already. The committee did not have time yet to give me one because it is overworked. Mr. Speaker, I think we should set up another committee in order to relieve the one dealing with internal economy so that I too may get justice from the federal public service.

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[English]

● (1440)

LABOUR RELATIONS

ONTARIO BILL RESPECTING SCHOOLTEACHERS— REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 43, to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity and I hope all hon. members will support it. In view of the fact that teachers in Ontario are forbidden to strike for better wages and working conditions, and in view of the fact that legislation now before the Ontario legislature will deny them the right to resign, which is a clear violation of their civil rights, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn):

That the Minister of Justice use the power of his office to urge the government of Ontario to withdraw Bill 274.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. The motion cannot be put.

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[English]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, under the terms of Standing Order 43 I rise on a matter of urgency arising from the fact that organizations and local government authorities were required to submit applications for local initiative project grants by October 15 of this year with the understanding that the Department of Manpower and Immigration would make its decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of these grants on or before December 3. In view of the fact that many constituencies in Canada, including the northern constituency of Meadow Lake, have not had any decision made to date