

Publication of Book by Secretary of State

"as representing the views of the hon. gentleman as distinct from those of the Privy Council, of which he was and is a member."

I doubt very much that the hon. member's motion, in the terms he has proposed, would meet the requirements of Standing Order 26(1). In my view, the motion relates to the conduct of a minister and to that extent it is excluded from the operation of Standing Order 26.

I refer the House particularly to Standing Order 26, sections 16 (e) and 16 (f), and I respectfully suggest that the motion raises a substantive matter which can only be debated on a distinct motion under notice. I must therefore rule that the proposed motion of the Leader of the Opposition, being essentially of the nature of a censure motion and as a substantive motion, it cannot be put and considered under the provisions of Standing Order 26.

I might add that a similar notice has been filed with the Chair by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands which is perhaps different in some respects. I invite the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands to indicate the terms of his motion.

PUBLICATION OF BOOK BY SECRETARY OF STATE ON
QUEBEC CRISIS—PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY
MEASURES) ACT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the publication of a book by a member of the government which has called into question the grounds on which Parliament was asked to enact the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, and the need for this House to discuss the desirability of asking that this act be rescinded forthwith.

Mr. Speaker: As I said a moment ago, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands has given due notice of his intention to request leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to debate the matter stated. I have also indicated to the House that the substance of the proposed motion arises from the same circumstances which were referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, although there is a distinction between the two proposals.

I remind hon. members at this point that the business of the House for today is a supply motion. After we have dealt with the routine proceedings of the House, we are to consider a matter which has been brought forward for consideration and debate by the House. This might make it even more difficult than in ordinary circumstances to grant the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition and that which is proposed by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

In this instance, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands seeks a debate to consider—and I quote his statement—"the grounds on which Parliament was asked to enact the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act and the need for this House to discuss the desirability of asking that this act be rescinded forthwith." The

[Mr. Speaker.]

question raised by the hon. member is obviously of great importance, as was demonstrated by the lengthy debate which took place earlier this session on the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act. In arriving at a decision whether or not to accept a motion under Standing Order 26, in addition to the factors to which I referred when considering the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, the Chair must take into account opportunities within a reasonable time for debate. It seems to me that such opportunities will occur within the reasonably near future, and for this reason I must decline to accept the motion put forward by the hon. member.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

NATIONAL SECURITY

PUBLICATION OF BOOK BY SECRETARY OF STATE ON
QUEBEC CRISIS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he knew the Secretary of State was preparing a book on the Quebec crisis for publication and whether he indicated approval or disapproval of the publication of such a book?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I knew that the book had been prepared before it was effectively produced and I ensured that someone in my office checked the book to ensure that no erroneous facts were stated as far as we could see. I did nothing to prevent the publication of the book.

Mr. Stanfield: Are we therefore to assume that it is quite in order within the right hon. gentleman's government for members of the cabinet to publish, while remaining members of the government, their personal views with regard to important decisions taken and recommendations made to Parliament, as well as the facts justifying these decisions or recommendations?

Mr. Trudeau: It would depend, really, upon the contents of whatever book was published and whether or not it infringed some of the rules of cabinet solidarity or the oath of office, and so on. But surely there is no objection to a minister expressing his views on public events upon which everyone in the country has been expressing views in the past months. Surely it should not be left only to those—surely it should not be left only to those—

An hon. Member: You have said that a couple of times.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, but I repeat it as long as I cannot get attention for what I am saying. We think it is normal for those who want to support public order in Canada to express their views as well as those who want to disturb it.

An hon. Member: Touché.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!