

Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. MacEachen, moved,—That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 20 Members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the Special Joint Committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its Members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

And debate arising thereon;

By unanimous consent, it was ordered,—That speeches on the motion be limited to twenty minutes with exception of the principal speaker on behalf of each Party.

Debate was resumed on the motion of Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. MacEachen,—That a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 20 Members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the Special Joint Committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary; and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose,

and to select if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its Members to act on the proposed Special Joint Committee.

And debate continuing;

Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Jarvis, moved in amendment thereto,—That the motion be amended by striking out (a) the words "Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons" in the first paragraph and substituting therefor the words "Special Committee of this House", (b) the word "Joint" in the second paragraph, and (c) the fourth paragraph.

And debate arising thereon;

Mrs. MacInnis, seconded by Mr. Nystrom, proposed to move in amendment to the said proposed amendment,—That the amendment be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and by adding immediately thereafter the following words:

"and that the motion be further amended by adding the following paragraph at the end thereof: 'And further that the Committee make an interim report, including recommendations for action, within two months of its first meeting, and a final report upon the completion of its investigation.'"

RULING BY MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair has some difficulty with the subamendment proposed by the honourable lady. Offhand I am inclined to think that it is clearly not in order, because it is not directed towards the amendment offered by the honourable Member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawernce) but is, rather, directed towards the main motion. I am prepared to entertain argument before making any final ruling with regard to the validity of this subamendment.

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MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is comforting for the Chair, embarking on the maiden voyage in ruling on a matter like this, to have had the assistance of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), the honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) and the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). One might be over-awed, at some other time, by the advice coming from such quarters. However, it seems to me that nobody presented a good argument for the subamendment to be merged with the motion and voted on in the House, and nobody seemed to feel that great damage would be done if the Chair were to rule that the subamendment could not be accepted now, as honourable Members will have an opportunity to move the same amendment at a future time. That is not to say that the Chair would necessarily accept such subamendment then, either. In any event, having given these short reasons and being thankful for the participation of experts on the rules of procedure, I must regretfully declare that the subamendment as proffered is, at this time at least, out of order.