

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Friday, June 5, 1970

The House met at 11 a.m.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

##### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

Eighth report of Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence—Mr. Wahn.

[Translation]

##### MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

Sixth report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, in both official languages—Mr. Serré (on behalf of the chairman).

[English]

##### JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Fourteenth report of Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs—Mr. Murphy.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. May I ask the Acting Prime Minister if we can expect more than this corporal's guard of ministers for the question period before it is over?

**Mr. McIlraith:** I do not think that question is a point of order at all and it should not have been raised under the guise of one.

#### TAXATION

##### WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—REPRESENTATIONS BY PRIVATE INTERESTS TO STANDING COMMITTEE

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether he approves of the decision by the Liberal majority on the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs to

bring down the guillotine on the hearing of representations from the private sector in regard to white paper on taxation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some doubts about the question. The hon. member is asking the Acting Prime Minister to comment on the proceedings of the committee. I wonder whether a question asked in those terms is acceptable. The hon. member is knowledgeable in the rules of the House. Perhaps he might like to rephrase the question.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Is it government policy to bring down the guillotine on the hearing of representations by the Finance Committee from the private sector on the question of the white paper?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister):** It is well known that the conduct of committees in matters referred to them is their own responsibility. I have no comment—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McIlraith:** —to make—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McIlraith:** —about the conduct of the committee in its own work on matters referred to it. Any opinion I have on that subject would only be available in the House when the subject matter is being debated here as a proper item of business.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I am asking the Acting Prime Minister whether any instructions were given with regard to the length of the hearings for representations by the public?

**Mr. McIlraith:** No, Mr. Speaker. No government of which I am a member—certainly no Liberal government—would instruct the members of a committee. The only authority empowered to instruct a committee is the House of Commons itself.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he does not think that the Prime Minister has