

[*Private Members' Business was called pursuant to Standing Order 15(4)*]

(*Notices of Motions*)

By unanimous consent items numbered one, ten, six and forty were allowed to stand and retain precedence.

The House resumed debate on the motion of Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre),—That, in the opinion of this House, there should be further improvements made in the operation of the committee system in order to enhance the influence of the House of Commons upon the policy-making process and in order to reduce the information gap between private Members and Cabinet Ministers and to that end that the following subject-matters be referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization for the purpose of study and the making of recommendations (a) the possibility of establishing a means whereby committees could take the initiative in recommending to the House matters which should be referred to them by the House; (b) adequate staff support for committees; (c) the advisability of making it mandatory for each committee to prepare at the end of each Session a running record of recommendations it has made to the government and government action taken on its recommendations; (d) making it mandatory for a motion of concurrence to be moved in connection with all committee reports and discovering a means by which debate on such Motions could be kept to a reasonable level, specifically the possibility of increasing the number of assigned days, the increase in number to be allocated to the discussion of committee reports, the reports to be considered to be determined by opposition parties; (e) making it possible for minority reports to be tabled together with majority reports from committees; (f) allowing Standing Committees to be constituted as Committees of Inquiry.—(*Notice of Motion No. 41*).

After further debate, by unanimous consent, the said motion was allowed to retain its precedence on the Order Paper.

The hour for Private Members' Business expired.

*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:

Messrs. Marshall and Rynard for Messrs. Hales and McCleave on the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

*Returns and Reports Deposited with the Clerk of the House*

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

By Mr. Coté (Longueuil), a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, by command of His Excellency the Governor General,—Report of the Canada Post Office for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, pursuant to section 80(2) of the Post Office Act, chapter P-14, R.S.C., 1970. (English and French).—Sessional Paper No. 283-1/20A.

By Mr. MacEachen, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council,—Return to an Address, dated December 15, 1971, to His Excellency the Governor General for copies of all correspondence, telegrams, memoranda, etc., between the Government of Canada and the governments of the provinces concerning the forthcoming conference of Francophone States.—(*Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers No. 253*).—Sessional Paper No. 283-3/253.

By Mr. Pepin, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, by command of His Excellency the Governor General,—Annual Report of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1971, with respect to the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act, pursuant to section 17 of the said Act, chapter I-10, R.S.C., 1970. (English and French).—Sessional Paper No. 283-1/164A.

By Mr. Sharp, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council,—Report of the Superintendent of Insurance for Canada—Small Loans Companies and Money-Lenders licensed under the Small Loans Act, for the year ended December 31, 1970. (English and French).—Sessional Paper No. 283-1/241.

At 5.02 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker adjourned the House until Monday at 2.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).