

Motions for Papers

by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) who quoted a statement of mine.

I want to point out that what I said then was that I thought it was stupid to discuss a personal scandal. Today, we are discussing the scandal of squandering public moneys to the benefit of friends appointed in the constituency of Lotbinière.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. members know that, under the rules, the Speaker can stop any discussion on a point of order if, in his opinion, all aspects of the question have been dealt with.

As every party had the opportunity, through its representative, of expressing its views, I think it is my duty, under our Standing Orders, to rule on the matter.

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is an argument which has not been raised concerning the importance of the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be in the interest of the Chair to hear it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Mégantic says it would be in the interest of the Chair to hear his argument. The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) wishes to continue his remarks. The debate could obviously go on for some time.

I humbly submit that it would not be to the advantage of the house to continue the debate.

The hon. members, particularly the member for Lapointe who moved this motion under standing order 26, asked me to consider citation 100 of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition, which reads as follows:

(3) "Urgency" within this rule does not apply to the matter itself, but it means "urgency of debate", when the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the house do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough and public interest demands that discussion take place immediately.

Paragraph (2) reads as follows:

The "definite matter of urgent public importance", for the discussion of which the adjournment of the house may be moved under Standing Order 26, must be so pressing that public interest will suffer if not given immediate attention.

I cannot agree that public interest would suffer if the matter referred to was not given immediate attention in the house.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): It would, as far as provincial elections are concerned.

Mr. Speaker: Some members pointed out that certain pieces of legislation are to be considered later on and they suggest that the discussion of that particular legislation is of a more urgent character than the motion now before the house. I believe such a suggestion to be reasonable.

It seems to me a motion such as the one presented by the hon. member for Lapointe is to be used only as a last resort. Only in extreme circumstances should it be moved and accepted. Only extraordinary circumstances warrant the suspension of the business of the house for the consideration of a question other than that on the agenda.

For those reasons, I do not believe I can accept the hon. member's motion.

• (3:30 p.m.)

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Would Your Honour be kind enough to call notices of motions Nos. 117 and 125?

I ask that the remaining ones be allowed to stand.

[English]

SEAFARERS UNION CONSTITUTION

Motion No. 117—**Mr. Herridge:**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of any communications exchanged between the maritime trustees, or other organizations and other persons, and the minister, or any official thereof, of the Department of Labour, and for a copy of any constitution submitted to the minister for his perusal or comment, with respect to the Seafarers International Union.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, since this notice of motion was placed on the order paper I have made careful inquiries and have had an opportunity since then to discuss the matter with the hon. member in whose name it stands.

From my personal examination I am convinced that all the many documents, with possibly one or two insignificant exceptions, are privileged. I can understand, however, my hon. friend's concern and his desire to obtain a copy of the constitution of the S.I.U. of Canada. I have assured him that I will see that he gets a copy. If he has any comments to make or questions to ask regarding the constitution or any other matter after he gets it, I will be pleased to deal with them when