

tion in respect of consent to the limitation on speeches if the minister had clarified his intention regarding the reference of the annual report of the Department of Fisheries and the Environment. He said he would give that matter some consideration before the adjournment. Had the minister made some reference to his views on that subject before asking us to deal with the question of limitation of the time and number of speeches, I would have been much happier.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I did undertake to consider that matter with the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis), but before I had a chance to talk with him he left the city and I have not had that consultation. I am not sure that, were the reference made, hon. members would be ready to sit during the adjournment, but I certainly would indicate to my hon. friend, if it will help, that in the resumed session I will be ready to reconsider the matter he has raised today and consult in good faith in an effort to accommodate the wishes of hon. members.

Mr. Barnett: Perhaps I might just say another word or two on that same point. The minister has said he is willing to give further consideration to this matter. We have often been told by ministers that it is not the minister who decides what the committee shall do. My second point is that if the minister could go a step further in assuring us he will give the matter consideration, by making a firm commitment to the House that he is prepared to make an immediate reference of that report to the committee at the beginning of the next session, I would be much happier with that than the undertaking he has given.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, on that point I might say there will be a number of understandings reached which will depend upon our good faith. Certainly I have no hesitation in telling my hon. friend that I will undertake to ensure that the committee will have the opportunity to deal with the matter he has mentioned, in one way or another.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Just for clarification, Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate whether in fact it is his understanding that Bill S-4, the parks' bill, will be reinstated at the report stage in the new session?

Mr. MacEachen: That is my understanding, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that, with consent, these bills would appear at the report stage in the new session and hon. members can move whatever amendments they wish at that stage.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back very briefly to the statement made a while ago by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen). I think he is right: we could use these few minutes to make some comments, if I understood him correctly. Of course, several bills are still pending. Several subjects have not yet been examined. I believe it rarely happens that so many subjects remain to be dealt with at the end of a session. In my opinion, the opposition is not too much to blame for this. For instance, I can mention government order No. 19, which was tabled on January 17, 1973, and which has not yet been debated. I think that the government has decided

Motion to Adjourn

instead to simply withdraw Bill C-225. I believe that important amendments should be made to the Unemployment Insurance Act. As soon as the next session starts, the government should table another bill to correct the weaknesses of this act.

[English]

Mr. Muir: For the purpose of clarification, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should pose a couple of questions and ask for the advice of the House leader, particularly in respect of the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts which was tabled a couple of days ago.

At the moment, the vice-chairman has on the order paper a notice of motion for concurrence, as do I. I was wondering whether, in view of the fact the committee carried out some excellent work in arriving at a unanimous report, agreed to by all members of all parties under the excellent chairmanship of the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart), the minister would indicate what will happen to that report. Perhaps with the unanimous consent of the house a motion for concurrence could be agreed to now.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of motions for concurrence in committee reports that could be moved in the course of this session. My hon. friend knows as well as I do that if the session ends, all that is on the order paper ends unless special provision is made to reinstate the bills in the new session. I want to make it clear that while I appreciate the importance of the subject matter and I agree with some conclusions in the report, I do not feel ready to agree that we can reinstate all the motions for concurrence in committee reports to be dealt with in the new session. I think the committee did a good job, the results are good and I think they will have a good effect.

● (1610)

Mr. Muir: There is another point of order on which I would like further clarification. I appreciate the comments of the minister, but if the report dies in this session of parliament, what will become of the ten hearings that were held? Can we consider this work to have been a joke or a farce? We heard delegations from many ethnic groups from all over this country who appeared before the committee. Is this to be all for nought? Are the many hours spent by the members of the committee, from all parties, who worked very assiduously, of no purpose? Is this the end of it, and nothing more can happen; or is there an arrangement whereby this committee report can be reintroduced when the new session starts? I believe the President of the Privy Council wishes to reply.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have anything further to add. When the new session starts there will be a new ball game. The hon. member has many ways in which he can bring things forward, and he can certainly make an effort again. On this particular subject I will be right with him.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, unlike the point made by the former speaker, there were negotiations with respect to the third report of the Special Committee on Trends in