

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 26, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Fifth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Clermont.

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

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

TABLING OF MEMORANDUM RESPECTING PROPOSAL TO RECRUIT FRENCH-SPEAKING CANADIANS

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Sharp) gave assurance that a memorandum from the Public Service Commission with respect to a proposal to recruit French-speaking Canadians into the Public Service would be tabled in the House. Under Standing Order 41 I should like to table this document in both languages.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister how long this statement is and whether he would consider reading it to the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the question is in order. I am not sure whether it is a point of order, but perhaps the minister might respond to the hon. member's question.

Mr. Hales: Would the minister make a statement on motions?

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PUBLIC SERVICE

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT OF FRANCOPHONES—ANNUAL REPORT—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rose a moment ago but I was awaiting any developments that might take place. I rise to ask leave of the House—

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): —to present a motion under Standing Order 43. I make the earnest plea to my hon. friends opposite that before they say no they give the matter serious consideration. I have drafted a

motion which I have made as inoffensive as I possibly can. It is a motion that does not prejudge the issue in any way. It meets the suggestion that has been made by the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis), the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) and others on that side of the House that the question alluded to in the document just tabled should somehow come before one of our standing committees. Therefore I earnestly plead with the government that unanimous consent be given to a motion which simply proposes that the annual report of the Public Service Commission be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. My motion asks for nothing else. The committee could then call the chairman of that commission, the President of the Treasury Board and others. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Surrey (Mr. Mather):

• (2:10 p.m.)

That the report of the Public Service Commission of Canada, tabled in the House on June 3, 1970, be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, seconded by the hon. member for Surrey, has proposed a motion under the terms of Standing Order 43 which requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has suggested that we give this proposal serious consideration. If he is serious in that regard I would be happy to give it careful consideration, but I cannot do so in 30 seconds. If he wants to let the motion stand until tomorrow, we will consider it before then.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to agree that the motion stand until this time tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

PUBLIC SERVICE

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board who was not in the House yesterday. The Acting Prime Minister suggested