

Finance

of normal rail service and affect our entire economy. If Your Honour finds that I have a prima facie case of privilege, I should like unanimous support for the following motion which I wish to move:

That this House call upon the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Labour to initiate an immediate on the spot inquiry into safety of rail operations in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again, I suggest to the hon. member that his comments do not relate to privilege. The hon. member might have raised the matter by way of a motion under Standing Order 43. I fail to see how the question he has raised in any way affects his privileges as a member of this House. I will not in any way reflect on the importance of the matter raised by the hon. member which has been brought to the attention of the House, but I suggest to him that there is no privilege. It might have been appropriate, more proper and more in keeping with the Standing Orders if that motion had been proposed under the terms of Standing Order 43 rather than under the heading of privilege. Of course I must rule that there is no prima facie privilege and, accordingly, no motion can be put to the House at this time.

● (2:10 p.m.)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Second report of Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, in the two official languages—Mr. Lessard.

[English]

NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

Fourth report of Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works—Mr. Hopkins.

AGRICULTURE

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Agriculture—Mr. Beer.

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

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FINANCE**TABLING OF REPORT BY PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION ON BANK SERVICE CHARGES**

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table two copies in each of the official languages of the report of the Prices and Incomes Commission entitled "Bank Service Charges".

[Mr. Skoberg.]

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**TABLING OF REPORT OF ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table, in the two official languages, two copies of the Atlantic Development Council report entitled "A Strategy for the economic development of the Atlantic region in the 1971-81 period", which I received yesterday.

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BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM**TABLING OF LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER RUDNYCKYJ**

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2), I wish to table copies of the letter received from Professor Rudnycky, a member of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.

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[English]

COMMUNICATIONS**TABLING OF "INSTANT WORLD", GENERAL REPORT OF TELECOMMISSION—STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today "Instant World", the general report of the Telecommission. The tabling of this document and its release to the public marks the completion of the first and perhaps the most difficult phase of a process of study and consultation on the state of communications in Canada, and on the needs, present and future, of the Canadian people. This first phase began more than a year ago when the Telecommission was launched on September 18, 1969. The next step in this process will end when I come before the House to present the government's white paper on telecommunications policy and regulation.

[Translation]

The telecommission report was intended from the outset to serve as a mechanism for the collection of information and opinions on the basis of which proposals could be formulated to solve Canadian telecommunication problems. This means that the document presented to Parliament today does not contain officially endorsed views of the federal government nor a key to its future policy. With the publication of this vast store of information, it is expected that the government will be able to proceed in a short time with the preparation of a white paper which will define the government's policy on telecommunications.

We will now begin immediately a process of further consultation with the representatives of provincial governments, private industry, users and other interested groups. As Minister of Communications, I will participate directly in these consultations, as will senior officials of my department.