

No. 281

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

Pursuant to Standing Order 43, on motion of Mr. Grafftey, seconded by Mr. McGrath, it was agreed,—That this House expresses the gratitude of the Canadian people for the life and work of Wilder Graves Penfield and its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Penfield and the family.

Pursuant to Standing Order 43, on motion of Mr. Broadbent, seconded by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre), it was agreed,—That this House expresses its profound displeasure with the CBC for giving considerably more coverage on its National News to the death of a United States multimillionaire than to that of the distinguished Canadian Dr. Wilder Graves Penfield.

By unanimous consent, Mr. Richardson, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, laid upon the Table,—Copy of letter to Mr. R. R. Heppe, Executive Vice President, Government Programmes, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, dated June 5, 1975 from Mr. L. H. Stopforth, Deputy Manager, LRPA Project regarding the effect of reduced cash flow in the fiscal year 1975/76 on the project.—(Sessional Paper No. 301-7/42B).

A point of order having been raised by the honourable Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), with respect to the role of Parliamentary Secretaries in committees.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it clear as a preliminary observation that I do not intend to stop any honourable Member from participating in the discussion. However, I think I should point out that there are two points in respect of which my opinion is quite clear.

The first point relates to my opinion in respect of the role of parliamentary secretaries with the special responsibilities they have, and, therefore, the limitation I would propose to exercise in presiding over the meetings of this assembly, specifically during the question period. I have no reason to change my opinion in that regard. I made that decision after careful consideration and representation. This is my view, and it is the view I take in exercising my decision whether to recognize a parliamentary secretary for the purpose of asking questions during the question period.

The second point has been amply demonstrated here, and I think it is worthwhile. We have under review another decision in respect of a complaint about the proceedings of standing committees, namely, a request that the Chair review a procedural decision concerning a complaint by an honourable Member of one standing committee regarding the comments or remarks of another honourable Member