

Price Stability

Later in his ruling Mr. Speaker Michener quoted a previous ruling by Mr. Speaker Macdonald, and I would like to put this on the record as well. It reads as follows:

I could give the hon. member many more citations and rulings by Speakers. There is one by Mr. Speaker Macdonald which appears in *Journals* for April 4, 1951, page 243. He ruled that "an amendment cannot be moved giving the committee wider powers than those which were set out in the Notice of Motion".

Then, there is another ruling of Mr. Speaker Macdonald's on November 2, 1951, as contained in the *Journals*, page 67. He said, and I quote:

"I might say at this time that if the Minister himself proposed an amendment which would widen the terms of the resolution I could not allow it to stand unless it was with the unanimous consent of the House".

It seems to me that I am faced with substantially the same situation today and I must say, albeit with regret, that I must rule the amendment inadmissible on the grounds I have cited.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I now assume that Your Honour is taking under further advisement the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As I suggested earlier, out of courtesy to the hon. member for Winnipeg North I should give at least the same amount of thought to his amendment as I did to the first amendment, and I will later be in a position to rule on the motion before the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Since there are two subjects in it, maybe you should give twice as much thought to it.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I will consider Your Honour's admonishment. I realize now in which direction you will be leaning when we consider the amendment. Your Honour will note that I rose very slowly. I thought that surely a member on the government side would come to the aid of the minister. There he sits forlorn, lonely and isolated.

We have in the House eight members of the government party, the largest number it has had at any time this afternoon since we began considering this motion. Not one of those eight members saw fit to rise in support of the proposal which the minister brought before the House. A short while ago we saw here the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto). Now we see the hon. member for York West (Mr. Givens) and the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Walker). Surely hon. mem-
[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

bers coming from an area where there is a very decided interest in the effect of inflation will, before this debate is completed, stand up and tell us that they support the unusual and extraordinary proposal put forward by the minister and contained within the motion.

• (5:10 p.m.)

As I say, I am shocked that the minister cannot at this time dredge up any support from his party for this motion. One of the reasons might well be that the motion is something of a fraud, something like the department which the minister has the honour to head. Apart from those orthodox aspects which were previously the subject of other departmental activity, I think it is a department which was conceived in fraud, born in shame and nourished under hypocrisy. All this time the minister and his predecessor who first engaged the attention of the public and of this House in connection with this department have attempted to persuade people that it had a function, that it would guide the poor, unfortunate consumer through all the problems which were envisaged as facing him during the course of the next few years.

It is a department, Mr. Speaker, which is engaged in obtaining by false pretences \$10 million from the people of Canada—the department of false pretences to the extent of \$10 million—and I am of course excluding from the departmental estimates those items which deal with the other orthodox or regular functions of the department which were being dealt with previously by other departments. In looking through the annual report I discover that one of the main additions to it is the "Department of Information and Public Relations." I quote:

During the fiscal year 1968-69 the Information and Public Relations Branch added two components to its organization, a media relations division and an editorial division.

The media relations division was established to co-ordinate relations with all news media in Canada through continuous meetings with members of the media, press conferences, interviews, official releases and background material on the legislation and activities of the department.

It goes on and on for another four or five paragraphs. This is a pretty good indication of the proof of the charges which I have levelled against the minister, not as an individual, not as a member but in his responsibility in administering the affairs of this department which adds nothing to the protection of the consumers of our country. That has been carried forward, Mr. Speaker,