

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, December 18, 1964

The house met at 11 a.m.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON RATES OF PAYMENT TO PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to present the recommendations of the joint committee on the library of parliament concerning rates of payment to professional employees of the library.

[Later:]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the joint committee on the library of parliament tabled this day be now concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Fifth report of special committee on food and drugs—Mr. Harley.

Second report of standing committee on mines, forests and waters—Mr. Godin.

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN FIFTEENTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, acting for the special committee on procedure and organization I move—

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether at this point I could raise a point of order to put something before the house. The hon. member is about to move concurrence in a very important report of the special committee on procedure and organization which was presented to the house on December 14.

Hon. members will have noticed that this is the most important report that has come from the committee; and I say that with all deference to the other reports that have come from the committee. It raises very important matters which are basic to the whole procedure under which we operate in the house. It is the kind of report that is deserving of full debate and discussion in the chamber.

I think all hon. members will agree that there is need for examination of the rules with a view to their improvement, and that this report does deal with some of the basic, needed improvements. I for one, and the government, have not had an opportunity of studying this report thoroughly and in a proper way. We would like to have more opportunity to study it, and indeed have made some preliminary arrangements for doing that during the recess.

In the light of what I have said, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether the hon. member would consider not moving concurrence today. I am led to believe, from conversation with some members of the committee, that the hon. member may feel he is obligated to move concurrence because of some proceeding in the committee, namely that he may have given a commitment that he would move concurrence in this report before the house recessed. But I would appeal to committee members, if any such commitment was given, to release the hon. member from that commitment. I wonder whether it would meet the wishes of the house if we were to let this very important matter stand over, in the hope and expectation that when we reconvene for the latter part of the session we could give it priority for the thorough discussion which it deserves.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Privy Council has put forward clearly and concisely very cogent arguments in support of the suggestion of the government that this report, revolutionary as it is in certain portions, deserves the fullest consideration. The President of the Privy Council has said that sufficient opportunity has not been available to the government to give that type of consideration to all the implications that are inherent in the report. I think this suggestion is one that deserves the support of the house.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order that has been raised by the President of the Privy Council, I would like to say that I appreciate the remarks he has made, but I also believe that if the members of this house are going to consider this report during the recess and come back to the session some time after the new year, there are at least some