

No. 155

## JOURNALS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1970.

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2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

## RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: On Monday, October 5, the honourable Member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau) raised a question of privilege in which he suggested there could be a conflict of interest in the conduct of the honourable Member for Halton-Wentworth (Mr. Morison) in his capacity as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regional Development.

The honourable Member for South Western Nova stated that the honourable Member for Halton-Wentworth, while Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regional Development, was employed by the Department of Community and Social Development of the Province of Newfoundland.

The honourable Member for South Western Nova went on to point out that that Province signed an agreement with Ottawa and is on the verge of signing a new agreement affecting a greater part of the Province; consequently he felt that the Newfoundland plan was much more liable to receive attention than others, and to use the honourable Member's words, he sensed a direct conflict of interest.

I think that the honourable Member for South Western Nova will agree that his proposed question of privilege may have been raised prematurely in that the Standing Committee on Regional Development has not met for several months and will not meet again in this session. The question of electing a Chairman in the coming session is a matter of future determination.

At the same time, I should remind honourable Members that it has been a long and well established practice that this House should not undertake any inquiry as to the conduct of any Member except when charged with a specific offence.