

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, March 25, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

GRAIN

TABLING OF REPORT OF CANADIAN GRAIN MARKETING
REVIEW COMMITTEE

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table under Standing Order 41(2) copies in both official languages of the report of the Canadian Grain Marketing Review Committee.

TABLING OF LETTER FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
TO MR. HAMILTON OF BOARD OF GRAIN COMMISSIONERS

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. Hamilton of the Board of Grain Commissioners dated February 26, along with a copy of his letter consenting to have it tabled.

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WEATHER MODIFICATION IDENTIFICATION ACT

PROVISION FOR OBTAINING OF INFORMATION CONCERN-
ING ACTIVITIES

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry) moved the first reading of Bill S-11 (from the Senate), to provide for the obtaining of information respecting weather modification activities.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

MOTIONS TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

NATIONAL SECURITY

PUBLICATION OF BOOK BY SECRETARY OF STATE ON
QUEBEC CRISIS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration.

This matter concerns the printing and publishing of a book by the Secretary of State, one of Her Majesty's Privy Councillors, who is sworn of the Privy Council and charged under section 11 of the British North America Act with the duty of aiding and advising Her Majesty in the government of Canada. Last October, Her Majesty, acting on the advice of Her Privy Council, proclaimed the War Measures Act. Under that act and its successor

act, the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, Her Majesty has laid criminal charges against a number of citizens and these charges are now before the courts. The book purports to state certain facts upon which the Secretary of State based the advice he gave the Crown to invoke the War Measures Act. The proclamation of that act directly involved this House by way of a resolution of this House and a successor act. It has led to criminal charges which are now pending and therefore involves the courts.

Whether the comments of the Secretary of State are accurate is irrelevant, Mr. Speaker. The point is they should not be published as representing the views of the hon. gentleman as distinct from those of the Privy Council, of which he was and is a member.

This matter so concerns our constitutional system, regarding both Parliament and the courts, that it must be urgently considered.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has given the Chair the notice required under Standing Order 26. May I point out to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that to a certain extent the form of the statement submitted to the Chair and the presentation of his motion to the House are out of order. If he will refer to Standing Order 26, he will read the following, and I quote:

A member wishing to move, "That this House do now adjourn",—

—shall give—

—to Mr. Speaker...prior to the opening of a sitting, a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed.

Furthermore, section (3) of the same Standing Order, specifies, and I quote:

When requesting leave to propose such a motion, the member shall rise in his place and present without argument the statement referred to in section (2) of this order.

I see that the practice generally followed by hon. members has been to keep to a general statement of the matter to be discussed under Standing Order 26, and this without substantial argument.

To that extent, it is possible for me to think that the motion is perhaps defective. I mention this aspect of the matter only to invite hon. members to follow as well as possible the general practice pursuant to Standing Order 26.

[English]

The point made by the Leader of the Opposition is that the views of the Secretary of State should not be published—and here I quote the hon. member's statement—