

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, May 13, 1966

The house met at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF NATIONAL HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps hon. members will allow the Speaker to infringe the rules of the house in order to bring to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Speaker's gallery of Canada's national hockey team.

[Translation]

BROADCASTING, FILMS AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ARTS

SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gérard Pelletier (Hochelaga) presented the seventh report of the standing committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts.

[Note: Text of the foregoing report appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

FINANCE

TABLING OF STATEMENT RESPECTING ACQUISITION OF MERCANTILE BANK SHARES

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell) asked that the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon) table a document to which the hon. member had made reference in rising on a point of privilege. I should like to table that document for the hon. member who unavoidably is absent.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR FIGURES ON RECRUITMENTS AND RELEASES FROM ARMED FORCES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence a question which I am sure he is expecting. Will the minister give the

house accurate information with regard to withdrawals and recruitments for the armed services? We were given a written answer on May 9 showing that withdrawals from the armed services for the first three months of this year exceeded recruitments by 1,525. Yesterday the minister gave us figures indicating that recruitments were greater than releases from the armed forces. Could we now have an accurate statement from him with regard to this problem?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Since this question is of a statistical nature I suggest it be put on the order paper.

Mr. Churchill: Oh, Mr. Speaker, the question was on the order paper and was answered on May 9, as is recorded in *Hansard*. The question was:

What have been the total enlistments at the commissioned and non-commissioned levels during the months of January, February and March, 1966, by each branch of our armed services?

The second question was:

By month, what have been the number of discharges and/or resignations at each level since January 1, 1966, by each branch of the armed services?

Those were the questions and we have the answers. I suggest that yesterday the Minister of National Defence, through ignorance, misled the House of Commons and the matter should be straightened out right away.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I think there is a problem of semantics, in respect to the question of withdrawals, between voluntary releases and total releases. The question answered the other day in *Hansard* referred to releases. To the best of my knowledge the figures I gave yesterday—and I will take the question as notice and give my hon. friend a more definitive answer on Monday—referred to voluntary releases.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. This is an attempt by the minister to evade a very important issue in this country. He used the word "releases" yesterday and did not preface it with the word "voluntary" or anything of that nature. I suggest, sir, that this is showing complete disregard for the rights and privileges of this house.