

Motions for Papers

If I may judge on the basis of questions that have been asked from time to time in the house, editorial comments and news reports, of which I assume the Chair is allowed to take judicial notice, this is a matter of long standing, not a sudden occurrence. It is therefore my duty at this time to reject the motion of the hon. member for Halifax.

[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, notices of motions Nos. 157 and 158 are acceptable to the government.

Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call notice of motion No. 161? I ask that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[English]

PRESS RELEASE RESPECTING ARDA
REGIONAL OFFICES

Motion No. 157—Mr. Coates:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of the press release issued by the Minister of Forestry in January, 1966, in which the four areas selected as regional offices for ARDA operations across Canada were named.

Motion agreed to.

MOVE OF ATLANTIC REGION ARDA OFFICE

Motion No. 158—Mr. Coates:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of any communications exchanged between the government of Canada and individuals, corporations or commissions, dealing with the proposed move of the regional headquarters of ARDA for the Atlantic provinces from Amherst, Nova Scotia, to Moncton, New Brunswick.

Motion agreed to.

VIEWS OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL
RESPECTING UNIFICATION

Motion No. 161—Mr. Forrestall:

That an order of the house do issue for copies of all communications between the Minister of National Defence and serving members of the armed forces with respect to their personal views on unification of the three services.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): In respect of this motion, Mr. Speaker, there are no formal documents, and any communications that might exist would be privileged. I therefore have to decline the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Is the motion dropped?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Churchill: You can't just decline it.

Mr. Forrestall: I must beg your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, as I am not sure what I am required to do at this time, but I am not prepared to drop the motion.

Mr. Speaker: The motion will be transferred for debate pursuant to standing order 47.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, am I not right in understanding that before this motion can be transferred the minister must so move? I did not understand the minister to move that it be transferred for debate. I understood the minister to say merely that he declined to accept it, and it is my understanding that in such case the matter must be decided immediately by a vote.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member would be right if a motion had been made, but no motion was made. The minister made a statement before a motion was made and it has been the practice, at least in the last few months, that at the request of the government or the minister such a motion before the house is transferred for debate pursuant to standing order 47.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the motion being put if that is the wish of my hon. friend.

Mr. Fulton: Just to keep the record straight, Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the hon. member for Halifax is at a rather oblique angle to you. I assure you that he did rise to move his motion when it was called. It was in response to that indication that the minister said he was unable to accept it.

Mr. Speaker: It is obviously contrary to the practice which has been followed for the Chair to put a motion which is not before the house. Although the hon. member sits very far to my left he is very much in my vision; perhaps the Chair has Vista-vision. In any event I did see the hon. member, but I do not think this point of order can be accepted.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the point of order. The heading in the order paper above these notices of motions reads "Notices of Motions for Production of Papers". Surely we are dealing with motions in this instance.

It has been my experience here that when an hon. member indicates his assent it means he wants the motion put. If the minister