

of Section 261 of the Railway Act with respect to commuter train services. The bill is designed to encourage the provinces to develop satisfactory commuter rail services in order to humanize the business of getting to work and to relieve some of the pressure on our environment.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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### INCOME TAX ACT

On the order: Introduction of Bills:

September 5, 1973—Mr. Reynolds—Bill intituled: "An Act to amend the Income Tax Act".

**Mr. Speaker:** As the hon. member is aware, the Chair has serious reservations about the procedural acceptability of the hon. member's bill, I gather he would like to submit argument at this time and perhaps he could be heard for that purpose. I would remind hon. members, however, that we shall have to ring the bells for the division on the motion under the special order in about three minutes.

**Mr. Reynolds:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I shall not take much time. I presented my argument to you in writing and I do not wish to take up the time of the House now by reading that argument, because it is quite lengthy. I am quite prepared to let my argument stand and perhaps resubmit the matter in the form of a motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have given serious thought to the argument submitted by the hon. member. I believe it should be sufficient to indicate to him that in 100 years or more of practice in the House of Commons there has never been a bill accepted similar to the one put forward by the hon. member. There is one instance when an attempt was made to propose such a bill and it was ruled out of order on the ground I have mentioned previously. The Chair appreciates the hon. member's co-operation and his suggestion that the subject matter might be presented to the House by way of a motion rather than a bill.

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

[Text]

#### BELL CANADA

Question No. 2,034—**Mr. Boisvert:**

Does Bell Canada receive money from the government under any scheme?

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** No.

### Order Paper Questions PRIVY COUNCIL

Question No. 2,302—**Mr. Alexander:**

1. Who are the present members of the Privy Council?
2. How many times has the Privy Council met since, and including, 1967?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** 1. Members of the Privy Council include all Cabinet Ministers and former Ministers, ex-Speakers of both Houses, the Chief Justice, ex-Chief Justices, and various distinguished citizens who have been appointed to it. Membership is for life. The members of the Privy Council are listed in the 1973 edition of the Parliamentary Guide at pp. 29-31. Since the time of publication, the following Privy Councillors have died: the Hon. Henry Herbert Stevens, the Rt. Hon. Louis Stephen St. Laurent, the Hon. Joseph Jean, the Hon. James M. Macdonnell, the Hon. Leslie M. Frost. There have been no appointments to the Privy Council since the publication of the 1973 Parliamentary Guide.

2. The British North America Act provides for a "Queen's Privy Council for Canada", appointed by the Governor-General to "aid and advise" him. In fact, this body as such seldom meets, and then only on very special occasions. For example in 1947 a formal meeting of the Privy Council was held to hear the King's message giving consent to the marriage of Princess Elizabeth. In 1952 a meeting was held to hear the proclamation consequent on the death of George VI and the accession of Queen Elizabeth. In 1952 the Privy Council met, with the Administrator presiding, for the induction of the former Governor General, Lord Alexander, as a Privy Councillor. In 1959 the Queen held a Council in Halifax attended by Privy Councillors in the government where Prince Philip was also present. The cabinet, which is a "Committee of the Privy Council", normally meets once a week. From the beginning of 1967 to the end of June 1973, it met 535 times. There are several cabinet committees which also meet frequently. A "Special Committee of the Privy Council" meets to adopt Orders in Council and it has met 486 times between the beginning of 1967 and the end of June 1973.

### INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN TELEX AND TWX IN CANADA

Question No. 2,603—**Mr. Bawden:**

Is it the intention of the Minister of Communications to consider a requirement that Telex and TWX in Canada provide interconnection between their systems, in view of the fact that this has been done in the United States and that Canada has in fact two major communications networks which cannot contact each other?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications):** The government is currently formulating a communications policy for Canada, based upon consideration and discussion of the proposals outlined in the Position Paper of March 1973. The issue of interconnection between Telex and TWX networks in Canada is being examined within the framework of this process. In this respect there has to be recognized an interest on the part of the provinces, particularly those having jurisdiction over telephone companies offering TWX service.