

*Official Languages*

called I wonder whether I could direct a question to the acting house leader.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member can only direct a question to the acting house leader with the unanimous consent of the house since the question period has expired.

**Mr. McGrath:** It concerns the business of the house. I assume I have consent to ask the acting house leader whether it is the intention of the government to bring forward a measure to set up a special committee of the Senate and the House of Commons dealing with the stability of prices and incomes, and is it the intention of the government to have this joint committee sit during the recess?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, that is a far more involved question than the order of business coming before this house.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****OFFICIAL LANGUAGES****PROVISIONS RESPECTING STATUS AND USE—  
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER, ETC.—  
REPORT STAGE**

The house proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-120, respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, as reported (with amendments) from the Special Committee on the Official Languages Bill.

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris)** moved:

That Bill C-120, respecting the status of the official languages of Canada, be amended in Clause 12 to read as follows:

"12. In accordance with and subject to the provisions of this act and the terms of any agreement that may be entered into by the Governor in Council with the government of a province as described in Section 15, the Governor in Council and the Lieutenant Governor in Council may from time to time by proclamation establish one or more federal bilingual districts (hereinafter called 'bilingual districts') in a province, and alter the limits of any bilingual districts so established."

**Mr. Speaker:** As the hon. member knows, there may be some difficulty in connection with the amendment he has moved, but at the same time it appears not to present any difficulties from a procedural standpoint. In view of all the circumstances, the hon. member may wish to proceed with the amendment.

[Translation]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I would like to [Mr. McGrath.]

point to the Chair and to the house that during the first meeting of the special committee on the official languages bill, it had been clearly understood and unanimously agreed that everything possible would be done to hasten the printing of the minutes of proceedings and evidence.

This had been agreed to and it had even been resolved, then, that special measures would be taken to give priority to the printing and distribution of the minutes of proceedings and evidence, since we are getting near the end of the session, and we must expedite the business of the house.

Well, not a single report of the proceedings of the special committee on the official languages bill has been printed and handed to members of parliament yet.

Therefore, I object strongly at the very beginning of this debate—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Fortin:** —if we do not have in our hands—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Fortin:** —the minutes of proceedings and evidence of the said committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. member and tell him that I am assured that the said reports have been distributed to all hon. members. It may be the distribution system of the hon. member that is at fault.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, my colleague the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte), who was a member of the special committee on the official languages bill at the same time as myself, at one time, has not received any copy of the minutes of proceedings and evidence of that committee.

For my part, I have not received any and I can assure you that my distribution system is operating smoothly.

Members of parliament have the right to receive reports and considering that we are now—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. member and tell him that copies of the report are available. He has only to ask for one and he will get it.

[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Thus far this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, the proceedings have been marked by an air of cordiality, if not conviviality. Just before I get into the substance of the