

No. 69

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1973

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

By unanimous consent, it was ordered,—That speeches on the motion for concurrence in the First Report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, presented to the House on April 2, 1973, be limited to twenty minutes with the exception of the prime speakers who shall be limited to thirty minutes.

The Order being read for the concurrence in the First Report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, presented to the House on April 2, 1973;

And a point of order having been raised in relation to a certain recommendation contained in the said Report;

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I thank honourable Members for the advice and guidance they have extended for the benefit of the Chair. What the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) had in mind, I gather, was to register a *caveat* so that we might bear in mind the very interesting point of order which he raised and to which I alluded when the notice was filed and received at the Table.

I must say I cannot agree with the point of view advanced by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North

Centre (Mr. Knowles) and, quite understandably, concurred in by the honourable Member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin). At the same time, I say right now that I will do nothing to prevent the consideration of this report at this time. I said, when the matter came before the House, that we were dealing actually with one of the many recommendations made by this committee. I am convinced that honourable Members are anxious that we forget about the procedural aspect of this matter and proceed with our debate on the recommendations contained in the report.

Honourable Members cannot convince me, however, that the Chair should disregard a practice which has existed over many years, probably for more than a hundred years. Honourable Members may say that to recommend a course of action to the House is only a recommendation and that the government is not bound by it. My recollection is that just a few years ago, when the House adopted a report which recommended a certain course of action, and when the government, in its wisdom, or lack of wisdom, depending on which side of the House honourable Members sit, did not take action as recommended—and I insist on that word—by the committee, there were suggestions made that the government was in contempt of the House and that the word “recommend”