

Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers No. 191, as follows:

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of Treasury Board Minute No. 697478 dated May 28, 1970, having been called was, at the request of the Honourable the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), transferred by the Clerk to the order of "Notices of Motions (Papers)" pursuant to Standing Order 48(1).

The Order being read for resuming consideration of the motion of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry of Bill C-224, An Act relating to ambient air quality and to the control of air pollution;

#### RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: The first order of business this afternoon is the motion for second reading and reference of Bill C-224, an Act relating to ambient air quality and to the control of air pollution.

If I may remind honourable Members of the present state of affairs, the debate has been concluded on this motion, but the putting of the question was deferred until a ruling had been made on a question of order raised by the honourable Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath).

The Chair has heard representations from various honourable Members and is now in a position to render a decision.

If I may state to the best of my ability the point raised by the honourable Member for St. John's East, it is that Bill C-224 should not be proceeded with at this time because a clause in the Bill would prejudice an amendment which has also been moved by the honourable Member for St. John's East, during consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill C-207, an Act respecting the organization of the Government of Canada.

It seems to me that the ancient rule of Parliament is that the House should not be put in a position where contrary decisions have been taken in respect of two similar bills.

It is of course a fact that a final decision is yet to be taken on Bill C-207, an Act respecting the organization of the Government of Canada.

However, the House has given second reading to Bill C-207 and has referred it to a Committee of the Whole. That decision is not in question at this time.

It is clear to me that for the moment no decision has been taken by the House in relation to any particular clause or section of the organization bill. Similarly, no decision has been taken by the House in relation to any particular clause of Bill C-224. This is the point which was made clear for the guidance of the Chair and of all

honourable Members by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). There is therefore, in my view, nothing procedurally wrong in having before the House at the same time concurrent or related bills which might be in contradiction with one another either because of the terms of the proposed legislation itself or in relation to proposed amendments.

May I again refer to the contribution made by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre to the procedural argument. The honourable Member's contribution is reported at page 3584 of last Friday's Debates. I quote: "...we are not passing this bill at this point."

The honourable Member was referring, of course, to the bill now before us, Bill C-224. "We are only debating a motion for second reading and the referral of the bill to committee. If we were at the third reading stage and were passing a bill that had within it a clause which was inconsistent with some other bill that had been passed, their point would be valid and I would be backing it."

Of course, at this point the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre was referring to the point made by the honourable Member for St. John's East and, I believe, the honourable Member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau). "But that is not the case. We are not passing a bill. We are considering proposed legislation and the likelihood is that there are a number of details in it which Members may not like or which they may find offensive. However, for the life of me,—"

This refers to the honourable Member's life and not to mine. "—I cannot see any point of order in respect of the propriety of the bill as a whole, which is what the honourable Member for St. John's East has asked Your Honour to find."

The point made by the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre appears to be well taken. I must conclude that the question on the motion for second reading and referral to the standing committee can now be put to the House.

And the question being put on the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. MacEachen,—That Bill C-224, An Act relating to ambient air quality and to the control of air pollution, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry, it was agreed to.

Accordingly, the said bill was read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Bill C-186, An Act to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain capital expenditures of the Canadian National Railways System and Air Canada for the period from the 1st day of January, 1970, to the 30th day of June, 1971, and to authorize the guarantee by Her