

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, January 18, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

## PRIVILEGE

**MR. HOWARD—FAILURE OF INFORMATION CANADA TO SUPPLY MEMBERS WITH CANADA GAZETTE CONTAINING PROPOSED CHANGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA RIDING BOUNDARIES**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege about which I have given Your Honour notice. My question of privilege relates to the advertisement by the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of British Columbia in the January 3 special edition of the Canada Gazette, wherein was published the proposed boundaries for the electoral districts in the province of British Columbia as a result of the 1971 census.

The deadline for making known to the commission the desire of anyone to appear before it to make representations is January 26. The Canada Gazette for January 3, within which these proposals were contained and which I understand Information Canada distributes has not been sent to any Member of Parliament as far as I have been able to determine, nor has it been sent, at least as of yesterday, to the Parliamentary Library. Indeed, it has not been sent to anyone.

My question of privilege is that the failure to distribute the information contained in the January 3 edition of the Canada Gazette interferes with the duties and responsibilities of the members of this House in their attempts to represent their constituents should they wish to make submissions or presentations to the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of British Columbia. Accordingly, if Your Honour finds that there is a prima facie case of privilege involved, and so that the matter will not founder because of lack of a motion, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House expresses the view that Information Canada should forthwith make available to members the proposals of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of British Columbia, as advertised in the Canada Gazette for January 3, 1973.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Skeena has given the Chair the written notice required by the Standing Orders. I have given some thought to the matter he is now proposing for the consideration of the House. I would think that the hon. member may have a grievance. Certainly he has justification, I am sure, for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. He knows—and this was confirmed, I believe, in conversations we had before the opening of proceedings this afternoon—that the commission reports to the House through the Speaker, not through Information Canada or any other government agency. It may very well be that the Chair could be of

assistance to the hon. member and others interested in getting an early copy of this report and in ensuring that the report is circulated immediately to all interested members from British Columbia. I will undertake at this time to see that action is taken immediately.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the second report of the committee appointed to prepare and report lists of members to compose the standing committees of the House. I shall seek the concurrence of the House in this report on motions later today.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand that the lists which are the substance of the motion to be proposed to the House later this afternoon by the President of the Privy Council are rather lengthy. Normally they should be read by the Clerk at the table. Perhaps this could be dispensed with. Is that agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

*[Editor's note: The report referred to above is as follows:]*

Your committee recommends that the standing committees of this House be composed of the following Members:

#### Agriculture

#### Messrs.

|                                      |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Beaudoin                             | Horner (Battleford-Kindersley) | McKinley                    |
| Caron                                | Hurlburt                       | Murta                       |
| Corriveau                            | Knight                         | Nesdoly                     |
| Côté                                 | Korchinski                     | Peters                      |
| Danforth                             | Lambert                        | Roy (Laval)                 |
| Éthier                               | (Bellechasse)                  | Smith (Saint-Jean)          |
| Fox                                  | La Salle                       | Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay) |
| Gleave                               | Lessard                        | Whicher                     |
| Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek) | Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo)    | Whittaker                   |
| Hargraves                            | McCain                         | Wise—(30)                   |
| Horner (Crowfoot)                    |                                |                             |