

*Business of the House*

[English]

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, of course, I do not agree with the suggestion that the committee be confined to elected representatives only. Obviously, any bill, including the constitutional bill, has to be dealt with by the other place, and it would be even more unseemly to exclude hon. members of the other place in the consideration of proposals which they must deal with and which affects the institution of which they are members. However, hon. members might wish to move an amendment and let the House decide the action or the composition of the committee.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We intend to.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I had that in mind. I was not counselling the hon. member; I was anticipating. But I do think it would be a good idea if we could get an order of the House confirming that when the motion setting up the joint committee is called, the debate will be limited to spokesmen for each party.

There will be opportunity for members to participate on the committee, and there will be opportunity when the bill itself is called for very wide participation in consideration of the proposals and in consideration of the report that would come from the joint committee. It is extremely important that the joint committee be established, that it begin its work while the House is adjourned so that it will be in a position to report as soon as possible. Certainly, it could work effectively in the course of the summer.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, the government House leader did not respond to the other matter raised by my colleague, the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). If there is any legal prohibition, either real or imaginary, on the part of the Ministry of Transport to participate immediately with cash in a pool for the heirs and victims of the Cranbrook disaster, can the government House leader advise whether the government will bring in legislation? He already has the assurance from all sides that it will not need more than an hour or half an hour, and that it will pass in all stages.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question, I am not certain as to whether legislation will be recommended by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang). I appreciate and welcome the restraint shown by hon. members opposite, and I ask them to broaden that approach to include a large number of other items presently on the order paper.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, the government House leader made a very interesting point when he talked about proceeding with the question of the period of time and the number of speakers in reference to the motion which he intends to put down, which would have absolutely nothing to do with the composition of the committee itself. I would hope that we will be able to proceed with that matter by way of an order now, and leave to debate and perhaps division that part which the hon. member

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

for Winnipeg North Centre talked about, how the committee would be formed.

[Translation]

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, I think I understand the debate going on now on the procedure to follow concerning Bill C-60. If we have to bring an amendment dealing with the composition of the committee, we cannot pass it in half an hour. This will require at least a couple of days, and I think it would be the same as saying no now, because either we are logical or we are not. In my opinion, if we discuss an amendment and it is not agreed to by the government leader, we will have to limit ourselves. This can be done, but not in half an hour or by one spokesman of each party. I believe many members will want to speak on that subject.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Discussions have obviously taken place and will continue to take place. At the moment I have no application for any specific order with which I could deal. Perhaps it will be forthcoming.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,123, 1,179, 1,449, 1,475, 1,536, 1,712 and 1,823.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

## EXPENDITURES—NICKEL BELT

Question No. 1,123—**Mr. Rodriguez:**

For each fiscal year since 1970, what amount was spent in the constituency of Nickel Belt by the Department of Agriculture and those agencies that report to it?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Departmental accounting systems are not designed to provide expenditures by constituency. However, operational expenditures for offices located within the constituency are estimated as follows:

	(Estimated)
1970-71	\$44,204
1971-72	47,107
1972-73	47,018
1973-74	58,106
1974-75	57,002
1975-76	57,312
1976-77	99,022
1977-78	72,579