

Motions for Papers

information and that the minister was speaking without any survey or knowledge of the facts, I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

STUDIES BY TRANSPORT POLICY AND RESEARCH BRANCH

Motion No. 322—**Mr. Skoberg:**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of the research studies undertaken by the Transportation Policy and Research Branch of the Department of Transport as reported in answer to Question Number 233 in *Hansard* of December 17, 1969 at page 2069.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the member has asked for twelve different studies, some of which have already been published while others have not yet been completed. The government will consider the possibility of communicating the remainder to the House. If the hon. member would be good enough to indicate clearly in separate notices of motion which reports he would like to obtain, the government could deal with each of them according to its own importance.

I would therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw that motion.

[*English*]

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order I want to reinforce the point that this is not the time for this sort of thing. The time of the House should not be taken up by this continuous repetition of alibis by the government. There could be private exchanges. We are anxious to get on with the business of the House in the short time remaining during this session, and we think that in the future the rule that Your Honour mentioned should be strictly enforced.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, it will be noted that the objection of the hon. member for Peace River is that we are giving the House too much information.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Left unresolved is the question of whether Motion No. 322 should stand, be voted upon, transferred for debate or dropped.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

Mr. Skoberg: I would like some of that information, Mr. Speaker, and so I will resubmit the question next session.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is dropped.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

PURCHASE RESEARCH BRANCH STUDIES

Motion No. 331—**Mr. Skoberg:**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of the research studies undertaken by the Purchase Research Branch of the Department of Supply and Services as mentioned in answer to Question Number 128 and reported in *Hansard* of December 15, 1969 at page 1949.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the Purchase Research Branch of the Department of Supply and Services was established to improve methods of government purchasing. The studies and reports produced by the branch were written for departmental use, and not primarily for wider distribution. They contain information given in confidence by business firms on the understanding that this information would not be made public. In addition, some of the documents contain classified material. It is therefore not possible for these papers to be tabled in their present form.

There is, however, a large amount of useful information that is not classified which I believe would be of interest to the public. It is, therefore, my intention to have the classified information removed from these papers and to have all of the remaining documents and studies made available to the public.

Mr. Bell: Censorship.

Mr. Speaker: Subject to the conditions and reservations expressed by the minister, is the motion carried?

Some hon. Members: Carried.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS REGARDING FOOD PROTEST, SASKATCHEWAN PENITENTIARY

Motion No. 356—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all reports received by the government or any agency, branch or department thereof from the Warden or other officers of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan with regard to the so-called "food protest" or "food strike" engaged in by inmates at the said Penitentiary in December, 1969, and for a copy of all reports relating to any follow-up or subsequent action taken by the Administration of the said Penitentiary.