

[Text]

COPY OF LETTER FROM O. J. C. RUNNALS ATTACHING MINUTES OF MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL URANIUM PRODUCERS IN PARIS

Motion No. 24—**Mr. Stevens:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of a letter dated May 3, 1972, from O. J. C. Runnalls, Senior Advisor-Uranium, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources; Official of Uranium Canada, Limited, a Crown Corporation, to N. M. Ediger, Manager, Gulf Minerals Canada, Limited, together with an attached undated letter from O.J.C. Runnalls to J. Austin, Deputy Minister of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources; President, Uranium Canada Limited, a Crown Corporation, attaching the Minutes of the Meeting of the International Uranium Producers in Paris, April 20-21, 1972.

[English]

Mr. J.-Gilles Lamontagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the requested document deals with international relations, the release of which might be detrimental to the future conduct of Canada's foreign relations. Therefore, I would ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Stevens: Transfer for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate. Shall the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, partly following the point of order raised by my colleague from Winnipeg North Centre, I would like to give notice that we will be appealing to Your Honour for whatever remedy is open to us to allow us to get access to the documents that we have been denied by the parliamentary secretary today.

We were told there was nothing secret about this uranium international cartel. I suggest there has been an affront to this parliament today, because the bulk of the documentation that we requested is in the hands of the Moss committee of the Congress of the United States. We know it is in the possession of this government, yet they have systematically, with trumped-up excuses, denied this parliament access to information which is in the hands of the United States Congress.

● (1522)

On another occasion, Mr. Speaker, I hope to put forward a motion which will clarify, in this instance, anyway, our right as parliamentarians to the information we have requested as set out in the motions just dealt with.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the hon. member has the rights provided under Standing Order 48. If he is not satisfied because the papers have not been produced, he is entitled to a debate to be held in due time, pursuant to Standing Order 48, and after one hour and a half of debate, each question will be put. So, his argument does not hold.

Canada Labour Code

[English]

Mr. Breau: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to add that the hon. member could, if he so wished, have asked that the motion be put to the House right away. But he did not make such a request; he spoke of taking another course of action. Parliament could have decided right now whether the documents are to be produced, or not, had the hon. member called for a vote.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has given me notice that as a result of the response he has received, after taking the opportunity to review what has been said he will be raising the matter again. I take that as notice.

Shall the remaining notices of motions for the production of documents be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA LABOUR CODE

AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ACT

The House resumed, from Tuesday, December 13, consideration of the motion Mr. Munro (Hamilton East) that Bill C-8, to amend the Canada Labour Code, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, when the House rose last night the minister and other members had spoken on the bill. I would like to add my words. I understand that the minister is anxious to show something in the Canada Labour Code for his efforts in the labour field which really have not been all that productive since he was appointed to that portfolio. I think the minister has been singularly unsuccessful in labour relations, so that much of what he has tried to do has not come to fruition.

In general, these amendments to the labour code are innocuous and apply to those in the labour force who are covered by federal regulations, not a great many, but important in the grain handling field especially—which affects Manitoba and the west—banking, transportation, and a few other federal activities. In a general way, it can be said that most of the regulations and amendments are already part and parcel of the present labour regulations and probably do not deviate a great deal from what is being carried on at the present time.

In some of the provinces, these new amendments may be minimal, but in others they may be above the present practice. The importance of the amendments lies in the effect they will have on the general labour situation and on productivity. The provincial labour codes will have to conform to these amendments. To this extent, the proposed labour code changes are