

mittee to which it could have been referred. It seems to me that sections (1) and (2) of Standing Order 74 contemplate such procedure and had that procedure been observed the present difficulty would not have arisen. It might be of interest if I were to refer to Standing Order 81 of the British House as printed at page 1084 of May's 17th Edition which reads as follows: "All committees, other than committees of the Whole House, shall have leave to sit at any time on any day on which the House sits, but may not otherwise sit during any adjournment of the House, without the leave of the House, and such leave shall not be moved for without notice."

That standing order of the British House indicates that our own long-standing practice is not unique and not at variance with the practice in other Parliaments, in particular at Westminster.

It is of interest to note, however, that in the British House proceedings in standing committees are interrupted in order to allow Members to participate in divisions in the Committee of the Whole. This brings me to consider the objection voiced by the honourable Members for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) and Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) to the effect that when a Committee of the Whole is sitting Members in attendance at standing committees receive no warning of impending votes as is the case when the Speaker is in the House. The difficulty is solved in the British House by the practice of interrupting proceedings in a standing committee so that Members can proceed to the House to participate in a division called in Committee of the Whole. Our own revised rules provide for deferred votes at the report stage of a bill, presumably to eliminate the possibility of frequent interruptions of standing committees. It may well be that our rules should be further amended to establish a similar procedure for votes which might be called in Committee of the Whole or possibly to establish a practice similar to that which exists at Westminster.

With respect to the interruption of proceedings in standing committees, these are possibilities which should be considered by honourable Members and in particular by the House leaders on behalf of their respective parties. The difficulty might well be considered also by the Committee on Procedure and Organization. While as I have stated on two or three occasions last week there appears to be a difficulty when there is a prolonged consideration of a bill in Committee of the Whole it does seem to me that situation is not in conflict with our existing practice or with the provisions of our standing orders and that the difficulty is not one which can be considered under the heading of parliamentary privilege.

It is precisely in recognition of the difficulty of the problem that I suggest the matter be considered by representatives of the parties in the House who I am sure are anxious to find a common ground to ensure the orderly proceeding of the legislative process in the House. This is why I took the initiative in suggesting

a meeting by representatives of the parties. It is my hope this meeting can take place soon and will have some broad and helpful results.

Mr. Hales, from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented the Fourth Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

Pursuant to its Order of Reference of Friday, October 30, 1970, your Committee has considered the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 1969, the Auditor General's Report thereon and the evidence adduced by the Committee during the past Session in relation thereto.

Your Committee recommends that it be granted authorization to retain the services of legal counsel to assist in the consideration of paragraph numbered 55 of the aforementioned Auditor General's Report, the paragraph titled "Failure of a Crown corporation to deduct and remit employees' taxes and to pay other contributions to the United States Government".

Mr. Lang, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, laid upon the Table,—Copies of Statement outlining the Grassland Incentive Programme to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. (English and French).—Sessional Paper No. 283-7/19.

Pursuant to Standing Order 39(4), the following two Questions were made Orders of the House for Returns:

No. 425—*Mr. McCleave*

1. What are the recruiting plans up to the end of 1971 of departments, agencies and Crown corporations to employ (a) chartered accountants (b) lawyers (c) medical doctors (d) engineers?

2. Are they to be recruited by the Public Service Commission or by the department, agency or Crown corporation concerned?—Sessional Paper No. 283-2/425.

No. 742—*Mr. Howard (Skeena)*

1. What was the total amount of money spent by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in federally operated schools and vocational training institutions for the education of residents of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories for the past five years and, what is the breakdown for each year?

2. What percentage of the total Northern Economic Development Branch budget do the above educational expenditures account represent?—Sessional Paper No. 283-2/742.

Mr. Jerome, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council, presented,—Returns to the foregoing Orders.