

Water Resources

matter and he said he could not identify precisely the statement quoted by the hon. member. If the hon. member will try to find the source and help the Secretary of State identify it, we might be able to reply.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question to the Secretary of State. At the opening of the Public Service Language School a week ago last Wednesday, was the hon. gentleman speaking from notes or from a prepared text when he was reported, in three press reports, to have said that French would be, or could be expected to be, the working language in units of the public service?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I was speaking from a text and I will gladly refer to it to see whether I expressed myself exactly in the form quoted.

Mr. Nowlan: I do not remember receiving the text on this occasion. Could the minister send copies of that address to myself and perhaps to other hon. members, as is customary?

Mr. Pelletier: With pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

● (3:00 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**WATER RESOURCES****PROVISION FOR MANAGEMENT INCLUDING RESEARCH AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS**

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill C-144, to provide for the management of the water resources of Canada including research and the planning and implementation of programs relating to the conservation, development and utilization of water resources, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River on a point of order.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I feel I must rise and say to Your Honour and to the House that in my submission this question can not properly be put before the House because it is in violation of Standing Order 62 and is also in violation of the British North America Act in that it provides, within the four corners of the bill, for an imposition of taxation and the appropriation of tax moneys

[Mr. Trudeau.]

for purposes not covered in the message sent to this House by His Excellency the Governor General.

There has been no previous opportunity to raise this matter because, of course, on first reading we do not really know what are the contents of the bill; this is the first occasion upon which the measure has really been put to the House. I say, too, that unlike the somewhat similar case I raised with regard to Bill S-3 from the Senate, the defect which, I contend, does exist could be cured by an amendment to the recommendation and/or an amendment to the legislation.

So, I preface my argument by pointing out that I do not intend to suggest this debate should not proceed. If Your Honour feels there has been a substantial case made, and decides to give the matter further consideration after subsequent argument, the debate should not be held up. It should proceed, and if Your Honour and the House feels I am right, the government may then consider what amendments should be introduced. My duty is to place suitable restraints on the government when I think it is not complying with our rules.

Just so the record will show this, the pertinent authorities are contained in Section 54 of the B.N.A. Act which states:

It shall not be lawful—

I emphasize those words.

It shall not be lawful for the House of Commons to adopt or pass any Vote, Resolution, Address or Bill—

In my submission, any bill brought before this House which is not properly authorized should be identified as such. This is true not only in respect of the passage of this bill but in respect of the responsibilities that accompany its passage. It is not for Your Honour to consider the constitutionality of this measure. That may be decided as a result of people challenging the law later in the courts. The words are very pertinent. The section reads:

It shall not be lawful for the House of Commons to adopt or pass any Vote, Resolution, Address or Bill for the Appropriation of any Part of the Public Revenue, or any Tax or Impost, to any Purpose that has not been first recommended to that House by Message of the Governor General in the session in which such Vote, Resolution, Address or Bill is proposed.

In confirmation of that, Standing Order 62 reads:

This House shall not adopt or pass any vote, resolution or bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended