

Procedure and Organization
GOVERNMENT ORDERS

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT
OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport) moved that Bill S-23, to amend the Canada Shipping Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, be concurred in.

Motion (for concurrence) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): When shall the said bill be read the third time?

Some hon. Members: Now.

Mr. Stanfield: By leave.

Mr. Jamieson moved that Bill S-23, to amend the Canada Shipping Act, be read the third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You see what can be done by consultation.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF POWERS OF
SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there have also been discussions held with regard to a proposal made by the Special Committee on Statutory Instruments for an expansion of its order of reference, and I wonder whether the house might be agreeable to adopting an order in the following form:

That the powers of the Special Committee on Statutory Instruments, appointed by order of the house on September 30, 1968, be extended by adding the following powers:

To consider and, from time to time, to report on the adequacy of existing statutory authority for the making and publication of statutory instruments and on the adequacy of existing procedures for the drafting, scrutiny, and operational review of such instruments, and to make recommendations with respect thereto.

Perhaps there is general agreement that this could be made an order of the house.

Mr. Stanfield: I am not objecting, Mr. Speaker, but I know nothing about it, and I would prefer if there were an opportunity for consultation.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I believe the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) was the source of my information. However, if there is not consent I will not put a motion now.

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Blair that the third report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, presented to the house on Friday, June 20, 1969, be concurred in, and on the amendment thereto of Mr. Baldwin (p. 10963).

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the matter which is now before us is one of the most important subjects we will debate in this 28th parliament because it has to do with nothing less than the rights of parliament itself and the rights of members in a free assembly to have an adequate opportunity to express the views of those who sent them here. If this matter were not so serious the government's handling of it could be described as a comedy of errors. It began last December when the government endeavoured to ram through the house the iniquitous and abhorrent rule 16A which would have virtually given the government power to cut off discussion in any debate, and even to limit the time of debate before it began.

The government backed down on that proposition because of the united opposition of all the parties on this side of the house. It is noteworthy that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) tried to save face by telling press and television audiences that he had set a trap for the opposition. He implied that he had never really wanted to put 16A into effect but by drawing the opposition's fire to that clause he had succeeded in getting all the other rule changes accepted by the house. If this is true, Mr. Speaker, then I would like to know why the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) has brought in a motion which is almost identical with 16A. By his action the President of the Privy Council has destroyed the Prime Minister's credibility and has exposed his transparent attempt at face-saving.

● (3:50 p.m.)

The second act in this comedy of errors has to do with the work of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, to which the matter of time allocation was referred. The representatives of the opposition parties on that committee not only agreed to but