

Motions for Papers

before this House a copy of all correspondence between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States regarding the Iron Ore Company of Canada and its parent company Hanna Mining Company of Cleveland.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member for Winnipeg North first raised this matter it was an oral question that was directed, I believe, to the Minister of Finance. Your Honour suggested that the hon. member should put it on the order paper. On that there now appears a notice of motion for the production of papers which involves correspondence between the Canadian government and the United States government. It would have been possible to answer the original question but I now have to obtain the acquiescence of the United States government, and that is being sought.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member agree that the motion might be dropped for the time being.

Mr. Orlikow: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

FEDERAL WORKING PAPER ON
REGIONAL DISPARITY

Motion No. 232—**Mr. Broadbent:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the federal government's working paper dealing with constitutional aspects of regional disparities in Canada presented at the recent federal-provincial constitutional conference in June 1969.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the paper to which the motion refers was in the nature of a preliminary consideration of some aspects only of the subject of regional disparities and reviewed certain positions of the federal government which have been revealed in white papers published on the occasion of the several Constitutional Conferences. The government's over-all approach to the subject of regional disparities is still being examined and will be discussed in the future with the provinces. For that reason it would not be helpful nor proper to table at this time the preliminary statement made at the private session of the Constitutional Conference in June, and I would ask that the hon. member withdraw his motion under these circumstances.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Agreed, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the final statement.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

PRIME MINISTER—SCIENCE COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE

Motion No. 233—**Mr. Broadbent:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the November 4, 1968 letter by the Prime Minister of Canada to the Chairman of the Science Council of Canada as mentioned in the Third Annual Report of the Science Council.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the letter from the Prime Minister to the chairman of the Science Council of Canada is part of the internal functions of the government and not in the public interest to be released. In view of the long established principle of the House that such documents are privileged, perhaps the hon. member would be agreeable to withdrawing his motion.

● (2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Broadbent: Agreed today, but this matter will be raised again next week.

CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
CONSULTANT STUDIES

Motion No. 234—**Mr. Skoberg:**

That an order of the House do issue for copies of all outside consultant studies undertaken for the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs as mentioned in answer to Question No. 1,323, tabled on June 25, 1969, as reported in *Hansard* on page 10597.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this notice of motion for the production of papers and the 18 which follow are all related to a number of consultants studies which were identified in an Order for Return tabled in response to a question. To grant this motion and the other 18 motions would involve the tabling of 1,188 consultant studies, or literally thousands of pages of documents. In the circumstances I wonder whether the hon. member would be prepared to withdraw his motions and be prepared in the new session to indicate the specific reports he would like to see. We could then consider whether they could be tabled.

Mr. Skoberg: I am sure we would not want the individual reports as such to be tabled, but we must have the reports which are available to the public. I deplore this type of governmental secrecy and ask Your Honour to put this notice of motion to the vote.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Skoberg) which was negatived on the following division: