

Study on Manpower

stop being so arrogant and start realizing that democracy, if it means anything, means that all the people of Canada and all Members of Parliament have a right to be given as much information as possible.

I know there are some government documents that deal with personnel matters which cannot and ought not to be made public. I am not suggesting at this time—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe there are only 14 or 15 members present in the house. If that is the case there is no quorum and the house should be adjourned.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): According to the rules I will have to ask the Clerk to count the members in the house.

Mr. Haidasz: Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw to your attention that there are at least half a dozen members behind the curtains and they are all looking into the chamber.

[Translation]

Mr. Georges-C. Lachance (Lafontaine): Mr. Speaker, to my mind, the hon. member is mistaken.

Come in, gentlemen of the Progressive Conservative party.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out that the hon. member who spoke a few moments ago has now taken refuge behind the curtains.

[English]

Mr. Haidasz: There are six over there.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Read the rules.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who just put the question, is not even in the house. Under those circumstances, the request is not in order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I should like to point out that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who asked that the members be counted, is not even present. To my mind, this is against the rules.

I should also like to point out that the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) is the only Progressive Conservative member present in this house.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is citation 60. You should read the rules.

Mr. Haidasz: Why don't you come in and read it for us?

Mr. Pilon: You can stay out now; we don't need you at all.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I draw to the attention of the house citation 60 in Beauchesne's fourth edition which states in part:

Any member may direct the Speaker's attention to the fact that there is not a quorum present. The Speaker will proceed at once to count the house, and if there are not twenty members present, including himself, the clerk will take down the names, and the speaker will then adjourn the house without question first put until the usual hour on the next sitting day.

[Translation]

Mr. Boulanger: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

If you add up the number of hon. members present, you will see that we have a quorum.

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

I would like to point out that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who asked that the hon. members be counted, is not even in the house.

Mr. Boulanger: I ask that the hon. members be counted, Mr. Speaker. You will find that we have a quorum.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have just had a conversation with the Clerk Assistant who is busy taking the names down. Hon. members will be advised in a few moments of the names of those members who are present at this time. If there are more than 20 then the motion cannot be accepted.

Mr. Pilon: We don't need their names now. They can stay out.

Mr. Haidasz: Stay out and stick to your principles.

● (5:20 p.m.)

On the count being made, 26 members were declared to be present.

Mr. Speaker: The advice received from the Clerk Assistant is that the list taken of members present indicates 26 members in the House of Commons.