

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 10, 1964

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF CHANCELLOR AND
FOREIGN MINISTER OF GERMANY

Mr. Speaker: The house is especially honoured today by the presence in the gallery of two very distinguished visitors. On behalf of all hon. members it gives me great pleasure to welcome the distinguished chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Ludwig Erhard, and his foreign minister Dr. Gerhard Schroeder.

In times past Dr. Erhard has visited Ottawa more than once as his country's minister of economics, the position from which he directed with such energy and skill the remarkable economic recovery of post-war Germany. This, however, is our first opportunity to receive him as chancellor of Germany.

In recalling the spectacular economic recovery of post-war Germany with which the chancellor is so closely associated we should not overlook another important development which is too little known and acknowledged; the establishment of a modern and stable parliamentary democracy in the federal republic. Our visitors have played a central role in the emergence of a new Germany and the establishment of a democratic society based on the dignity of the individual and the rule of law.

In this process the new German parliamentary institutions have played a most important role. Indeed, within the past few weeks we have had the pleasure of welcoming a group of German parliamentarians with whom we were able to have a most profitable exchange of views, and during the course of the next few days our own former Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), will be paying a personal visit to the Bundestag in Bonn.

Conscious of our common heritage and purpose, we are deeply honoured today to receive the German chancellor and foreign minister and to extend to them a warm "herzlich willkommen."

Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

PRIVILEGE

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER ON QUESTION OF
MEMBER FOR YUKON

Mr. Speaker: If hon. members will bear with me I would like to make a statement on a question of privilege raised last Friday by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). On Friday last the hon. member for Yukon rose on a question of privilege having to do with certain rulings of the Chair the previous day. The hon. member referred me to Beauchesne's fourth edition, page 57, where is found the following citation:

The Speaker's jurisdiction does not extend to words outside the house.

The hon. member then added:

There is a reference there to May's Parliamentary Practice, thirteenth edition.

I might perhaps now allude to this reference, which will explain the quotation from Beauchesne:

In case of disorder the jurisdiction of the house is also extended to the lobbies. On the 11th April, 1877, on the numbers being declared after a division, complaint was made to the house by Mr. Sullivan of an offensive expression addressed to him by Dr. Kenealy in the side lobby during the division just taken. Mr. Speaker observed that, had the expression complained of been used in the house it would have been his duty to deal with the matter on his own authority; but, as the complaint referred to words used in the lobby, he left it to the consideration of the house and called upon Dr. Kenealy to explain his conduct.

In May's sixteenth edition at page 133, which I read to the house on Thursday, I find the following:

Alleged breaches of privileges or contempts committed out of the house or in the precincts of the house but not in its actual view may be brought to the notice of the house.

We may from the beginning draw two conclusions from these statements. The first is that contempts committed outside the house may be dealt with in the house itself, and I will refer to the existing precedents in a moment; the second conclusion to be drawn is found in a quotation from Beauchesne in paragraph 2 of citation 104, which is as follows:

(2) It has often been laid down that the Speaker's function in ruling on a claim of breach of privilege