

*Procedure and Organization*

Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) he is imputing that Your Honour is permitting something improper in this house. He is imputing something to Your Honour on which Your Honour cannot rule. That is what a Minister of the Crown is doing.

**Mr. Speaker:** It may be difficult to recognize that we are still dealing with a point of order relating to Standing Order 51. I invite hon. members to remember that. I reminded the hon. minister a moment ago that he could not impute motives. I am sure he will give that indication to the Chair.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I have not been imputing motives. I have been stating a simple fact. I am stating that under the rules of this house the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the Leader of the Opposition had no entitlement to the floor to take part in this debate.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame, shame!

**Some hon. Members:** Stupid, stupid!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. minister will recognize that it is the responsibility of the Chair to determine whether—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) sought and were given the floor for the purpose of raising a point of order. In my view much of what was said by those hon. members, was specifically to the point of order, and I would think the hope that the minister will also relate his remarks to the point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, as I understand the point of order, as it emerged from the tortuous language of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, it is that Your Honour should not permit the motion moved by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) to be put before this house. Your Honour was asked to take an unprecedented responsibility which no Speaker, in this or in the British house, has ever been asked to assume.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is saying today that the motion for concurrence in the report of the standing committee, having been moved already, should

not be further proceeded with. The hon. member is asking Your Honour, under a Standing Order, to assume that responsibility, and he is asking Your Honour to assume that responsibility in the name of parliament.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacEachen:** I just want to put this in context, Mr. Speaker. Today the member for Winnipeg North Centre is telling us that to proceed with this motion is a breach of parliamentary privilege. Last week he and the Leader of the Opposition told us if we did not proceed with it that it would be a breach of parliamentary privilege.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacEachen:** The government house leader put a motion on the order paper that might have had the effect of superceding the motion moved by the chairman of the committee. The member for Winnipeg North Centre and the Leader of the Opposition were in their places shouting that we must respect the committee system and that we must have this report from the committee.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition in his speech on the motion said that by moving concurrence in the motion parliament had scored a victory. Today the same gentleman is telling us that to proceed with the motion is unparliamentary.

• (5:20 p.m.)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacEachen:** No wonder the credibility of the Leader of the Opposition and of the member for Winnipeg North Centre is wearing thin.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacEachen:** No wonder there is disillusionment and cynicism about parliament when two leading members will take a position such as they took last week, and reverse it this week.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame, shame.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacEachen:** No wonder the young people and the young members are fed up with double standards.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacEachen:** No wonder they are fed up with double standards and double talk. This