

Notice of Objection to Motion of Minister

called literally any day. So there is no question as to the probability of this matter being brought before the house in that way, if the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization wishes to exercise his right under that motion. Therefore it does seem to me that Your Honour should consider whether the motion proposed by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) does in fact anticipate, or in other words block something that is already on the order paper.

I realize, and I suspect the President of the Privy Council may draw attention to this fact because I notice he was trying to get to his feet, that some of us were not party to the report of the standing committee. We have even had some argument on the floor of the house as to whether it was a report of the majority or a report of the committee. I recognize the rule in this matter, but the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton went to pains yesterday to emphasize that what he had presented was the report of the committee.

Surely at some point a decision has to be made. Are these rule changes that are proposed changes that are in the name of a committee, whether in its totality or majority, or are the changes being made in the name of the government? Later on we will have time to argue as to whether it is proper to change the rules of the house on the initiative of the government, but I think the point has to be made at this moment.

I also draw attention to the same point made by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), that if it is the desire of the government to make some amendments or some changes in the rules brought forward by the committee, the government should be required to follow the rules that face all the rest of us, instead of being able to act under some special provision.

All told, Mr. Speaker, we think this is not the manner in which the rules of the house should be dealt with, and while we do not seek a ruling at this point my colleague and I both felt that since the item has just appeared on the order paper we should indicate our objection to the way this matter is being handled.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be rather brief, because the two previous speakers have already expressed the opinions that we of the Ralliement créditiste wanted to make known.

The committee report, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

said, does not constitute an exact report of the proceedings. Standing Order 75c which has been presented at the very last minute by the government does not represent the committee's views. We deplore that this report was included in the Votes and Proceedings No. 175 of last Friday and that we might have to discuss it in a few days if not today.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that your ruling was that what we will discuss does not represent the committee's report, especially as far as Standing Order 75c is concerned, but only the government's views.

[English]

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I shall not go into any detail on the arguments raised, because it was only an instant before the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) rose that he mentioned to me he would be taking this position. If I could, I should like to refer the Chair to the fact that the rule with regard to anticipation refers to actual discussion as opposed to putting the motion. The motion in the name of the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair) has not been put and therefore the precedents referred to by the hon. gentleman do not apply. I think we are entitled to be a little amused at the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who earlier this week disavowed the report of the Committee on Procedure, and has now adopted it as being something good.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) knows better than to try to put words into my mouth by suggesting I am adopting the committee's report. He knows very well I am against the motion to adopt it hook, line and sinker, but I insist that the government must make clear whether it is trying to give this to us as a committee report or as a government motion, with all that goes with that situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether we are not debating the matter at the present time. I understand that hon. members are just entering a caveat that they propose to raise this matter next week or the following week.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: The caveat has been entered and noted.