

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Hon. members say that is not so. If they establish that what I am saying is not true, I will withdraw that statement.

I am happy to note that the arrangements have not been finalized and that they are still subject to cancellation. That being the case, I think it might be presumptuous if, in the promotion of this thing, members of the Liberal party have been told that they are going to use the parliament buildings. There has been no consultation as yet on this matter, and I am happy to know that the arrangements have not yet been finalized.

For Your Honour to have agreed to this use of our facilities, I cannot help but feel that someone in the Liberal party misrepresented the situation to you. I say that quite candidly; it must have happened that way. I just want my hon. friends opposite to know—

**Mr. Olivier:** You don't have any friends on this side.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** An hon. member talked about a day off. Part of this meeting is to be held on a parliamentary day. Before any motion to suspend sittings of this House on Friday is proposed, I hope this matter will be resolved to the satisfaction of the House of Commons.

**Mr. MacFarlane:** Typical blackmail. Now we know what it is all about.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** There has always been co-operation on these matters. We have always co-operated. That has been a hallmark of this place, but this is the first time we have been asked to clear the House of Commons for a shindig. I think the government House leader should live up to his reputation with regard to consultation. I suppose the first person to consult would be Your Honour, and then the House leaders should be consulted so that we can get back to the system of consultation and co-operation.

Most important, these premises should be used appropriately. I am open to consultation. I always have been. I just wish that someone had had the good grace to suggest that it might be a good idea to sit down and talk about this before presuming anything.

**Mr. Speaker:** There will have been representations from all parties on this matter after I have recognized the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise). There are several other hon. members who are seeking the floor to make interventions. I am going to conclude the discussion with the hon. member for Abitibi because that will complete an all-party discussion. At the conclusion of the remarks of the hon. member for Abitibi I may have some remarks to make.

**Mr. Brisco:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Jones:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

*Privilege—Hon. M. Lambert*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Abitibi.

● (1542)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, no doubt you have noted as all of us did that the request made by Liberal party officials to use available premises in the Parliament Buildings for what might be termed a giant reception at the political convention of their party has given rise to strong feelings in the House. I think it is unusual that the organizers of such a large demonstration ask permission to use public premises such as those available to members in the Parliament Buildings. Such a demonstration could give rise to future complications and I think that even if it established that members can use those premises to receive delegates from their ridings, or groups of electors visiting the national capital or meeting ministers, I think that on those occasions those rooms can be made available for members or even for a caucus. But when it comes to large gatherings such as the convention of a political party, not only a Liberal convention, but the convention of any Canadian party, I think that such requests should be turned down. Ottawa and Hull are not small towns and have organizations in a position to host conventions and groups as large as that expected during the weekend of February 24 and 25. Now, Mr. Speaker, when the convention for the selection of a leader for the Social Credit Party of Canada was held in Ottawa in 1975, we rented some facilities in the city and our convention was held there. I think that the Liberal party was ill-advised when it asked you for permission to use the public premises of the House of Commons to hold such large convention which, as we know, could have serious effects when we realize how preparations are going on to serve refreshments to some 3,000 or 4,000 guests at a party. It could have serious consequences which would remain in the history of Canadian parliamentarism.

So I think we should avoid this kind of things. In my opinion the Liberal organization is not made up of beggars and I think they have enough money to look for facilities in town because there are places where they could be accommodated and I suggest they go to those places to host their delegations and their guests.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are a number of other hon. members who seek to make an intervention in this regard; I know the hon. member for Moncton (Mr. Jones) is one, and there are others including the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco), the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne), the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier). I have no intention of preventing their intervention in any way. At this moment I am simply going to defer the matter until a later time when I may hear these other representations. The matter has been raised, and I want to give the House a brief history of it. I would invite hon. members to exercise some patience while we do undertake the kind of consultations referred to by several participants.