

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, April 27, 1989

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

[*English*]

PRIVILEGE

LEAK OF BUDGET DOCUMENT

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Before hearing Hon. Members, I want to advise the House that I have a number of applications of privilege. As the House knows, they must be heard in a certain order. The order is as they were received.

They are in the following order and these are the Hon. Members who have put forward their questions of privilege. The first in order is the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: What time?

Mr. Speaker: Eight thirty p.m.

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): My privilege!

Mr. Speaker: If the Hon. Member has a point of order, I will hear her. If she has a question of privilege, then I will receive her notice. However, I have not received it.

As I say, the first was received at 8.30 p.m. from the Minister of Finance. The second was received from the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) at 11.22 p.m.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The third was received from the Hon. Member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Milliken) at 11.25 p.m. The next was received from the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus) at 11.40 p.m.. The next was from the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) at 11.44 p.m. The next

was from the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park (Mr. Flis) at 10.13 a.m. today.

I will hear the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gauthier: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Riis: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on a point of order.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray):

That the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition now be heard.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier has moved a traditional motion that another Hon. Member be now heard. That is properly a matter for a debate. In my view, having set out the fact that we have questions of privilege here which take precedence over other things, I think I am bound to proceed as I indicated I would. The Hon. Minister of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kamloops (Mr. Riis).

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is attempting to rise on a point of privilege presumably based on the leak that occurred yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: Theft!

Mr. Riis: I believe that this is out of order. I believe that this is a diversionary tactic because if Your Honour will refer to Beauchesne's, Citation 82, Your Honour will see that it states:

A question of privilege must be brought to the attention of the House at the first possible opportunity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, you will recall that on a number of occasions you had to rule questions of privilege out of order because they were not raised at the earliest possible moment.