

constituency, as Speaker I am required to consider only those matters which affect the member's parliamentary work. That is to say, whatever duty a member has to his constituents, before a valid question of privilege arises in respect of any alleged interference, such interference must relate to the member's parliamentary duties. In other words, just as a member is protected from anything he does while taking part in a proceeding in Parliament, so too must an interference relate to the member's role in the context of parliamentary work.

Under the circumstances, in this instance, therefore, I cannot find a prima facie case of privilege.

MR. TAYLOR—APPOINTMENT OF "TWIN MEMBERS" IN CERTAIN WESTERN CONSTITUENCIES—RULING BY MADAM SPEAKER

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) also rose on a question of privilege on Thursday, July 3. His concern was whether public funds were being used by a member of the staff of a minister of the Crown in respect of work relating to the appointment of government members as twin members in certain western constituencies. If so, he suggests it would be an abuse and would amount to usurping and interfering with the elected member and his work in the constituency. The hon. member also had two other concerns with respect to the implementation of the twin member concept. One was whether any public funds were being used by those twinned MPs and, second, whether the mail from his constituents and his own mail to ministers of the Crown was being directed to the twin MP.

The hon. member received considerable support from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), who elaborated on the effect such action could have. However, the right hon. member himself said we have no guarantee that this is the case.

● (1510)

While expressing concern for the preservation of democratic principles, the hon. member for Bow River did not direct the attention of the Chair to any specific instances of improper conduct by any particular member of this House. Furthermore, he will appreciate that, while the conduct of a member of this House may be raised by another member, Mr. Speaker Michener said in 1959 that an hon. member should not be required to submit his conduct for investigation by the House or a committee thereof until he had been charged with an offence by another member.

I therefore feel, in this case again, that I cannot find a prima facie case of privilege.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH)—WITHDRAWAL OF UNACCEPTABLE EXPRESSION USED IN DEBATE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order related to an incident which

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took place in the House last evening. As you will attest, I hope, it is not my general practice to be disrespectful in this House or toward this House. I have too much regard for the institution to behave otherwise. It therefore takes extreme provocation and a blatant display of disregard for the niceties of verbal performance in this chamber to cause me to overstep the bounds of propriety and use an expression which I know to be unacceptable in Beauchesne's sight. I do not deny using such an expression, but I was merely pleading for the truth. I expect others to treat this House with equal respect and regard and when there is an outrageous failure to do so my intolerance knows no bounds.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Such was the case last evening when in an exasperated outburst I adjured the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray), as recorded at page 2869, to adhere to the truth but added an expression meaning the same thing, although it was in a form to which exception is likely to be taken. I offer now to withdraw the offending word and urge the minister to show similar respect for this House and the Chair and to restore his good name by making a similar gesture. He could do so by repudiating the unspeakable assertions he perpetrated yesterday when he attributed views to the Conservatives by putting words in the mouth of the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) which that member at no time expressed or espoused and which Conservatives had at no time voiced or would wish to voice.

I withdraw, Madam Speaker, and urge the minister to do likewise.

Madam Speaker: I appreciate the point made by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro). Such outbursts of emotion often occur in the House and it is in the spirit of this chamber that a gesture such as the one which has been offered by the hon. member is accepted. The withdrawal is accepted and I think we will not discuss this matter further.

The Secretary of State.

Mr. Fox: Madam Speaker, yesterday afternoon during the course—

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker—

Madam Speaker: Could I be clear about this? Is the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm) seeking the floor on a point of order flowing from the discussions we have just had? Yes or no? Then I recognize the Secretary of State.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. FOX—REMARKS IN DEBATE BY HON. MEMBER FOR PETERBOROUGH

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, during the course of the proceedings yesterday afternoon,