

a wise course on their part to withhold for a while the publication of the particular debate in question. For my own part, I think that they rather mistook the course which is sanctioned by precedent in this House on that point. Where there has been an objectionable debate it has been usual to refer it to the committee, and the committee has then been asked to consider the question and report to the House, and generally that report has been adopted by the House. The sending of the debate to the committee has been tantamount to an instruction from the House. I think the committee has a perfect right to make a recommendation, and the hon. gentleman from Alberton correctly states the fact when he says the committee has only made a recommendation. It has not attempted to usurp the powers of the House, but has made a recommendation, whether wise or unwise it is for the House to judge. With regard to the second point, I desire to say I think the recommendation of the committee is an unwise one. I agree perfectly with what has fallen from my hon. friend from Amherst, that with regard to the question of our contingencies we have nothing to conceal, and that any discussion taking place on that question should have the utmost publicity. The debate in question was one of those which should particularly have appeared in our debates, because at the present time there is a very unfair agitation being started in another place with regard to the alleged extravagance of our expenditures. The very appearance, therefore, of suppressing a discussion of anything taking place on that subject might be injurious to this body. I therefore intend to vote against the report as a whole, in consequence of the second part, because I believe the debate in question should take its proper place in the official report, and that any debate of that kind should have the greatest publicity that could be given to it, because I believe this House has nothing to lose by the freest and fullest publication of debates of that kind.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I scarcely need rise to say anything on this subject, because I might be content with saying simply that I concur in what has fallen from my hon. friend from Richmond. The most courteous way of dealing with the incident before us,

which is not all disclosed, as I understand, by the report, is simply to decline to adopt the report if we are of opinion, as I am of opinion, and I suppose as hon. gentlemen who have spoken think, that the recommendation is not a judicious one. I see that the debate in question does not appear in our official report and the House has given no order, I understand, restraining its publication. Therefore, in some way or other the report does not find its proper place in our *Debates*, and we have not yet pronounced any opinion as to whether it should or should not. We have given no order in that respect. The omission of the report is a mistake. I think it should not have occurred.

HON. MR. MILLER—If the House does not order that that debate shall not appear it must, as a matter of course, appear.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I quite agree with my hon. friend. It is unnecessary for us to make any substantive motion on the subject, because under the arrangement we have made for the reporting of the debates it must appear. It has not yet appeared, and subsequent debates have been published. It does not take its usual place. When the House has declared that it does not concur in the recommendation of the committee that report will find its way, I presume, into the *Debates* in the ordinary course of things; so the main thing we have to do now is to say whether or not we concur in the recommendation of the committee not to publish this report. I am quite prepared to go the entire length that my hon. friend has done in stating my opinion that the report ought to go to the public. Not only have we nothing to fear by a comparison of our expenditure with the expenditures in other places, but as a result of the investigation before the committee last winter, it is proved that we have every reason to be satisfied with our position as compared with that of any other legislative chamber. There is probably something to be desired yet in that respect, but we are quite competent to do whatever may be necessary in that way, and I only regret—and I mention it incidentally—that the comparative statements which were prepared last year of the contingent expenditures of the two Houses were not published in their entirety as they were laid before the committee,