

*Privilege—Mr. Rodriguez*

governor of the Bank of Canada. The steering committee meeting had in attendance the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ritchie York East), the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs and representatives from the major parties on both sides of this House.

The steering committee submitted its report last evening to the committee and, lo and behold, there was the parliamentary secretary presenting an amendment to that agreement that had been reached. The amendment proposed by the parliamentary secretary in effect reversed the order of appearance before the standing committee. It put the governor of the Bank of Canada first and the finance minister somewhere down the line.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that we should keep in mind the statement by this government in the Speech from the Throne at page 4, as follows:

Proposals will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to strengthen the powers and resources of parliamentary committees, to accord more prominence to private members' initiatives, and to make my ministers more accountable to you.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the ministers are accountable to Parliament; it is not the committees that are accountable to the minister. That was the process followed by the previous government. Here we have a wonderful opportunity for this government to start off on a new beginning, on a new footing, but in fact we have the Minister of Finance pulling the strings of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. I resent that as a member, and members of this House ought to resent it. The committee—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) will realize that even if I accept his entire premise without any qualification, he is in serious difficulty in attempting to establish this matter as a question of privilege. He indicated that steps had been taken at the steering committee and that in turn the steering committee reported and dealt with it in a certain way, a way that he resents. I accept all that and his resentment is his right. Nevertheless, the proceedings of a committee remain the proceedings of the committee. As the hon. member understands, this House ought not ever to be considered as a court of appeal in respect of a committee's decision on procedural matters or on other matters taken in the committee.

If the hon. member wishes to reopen the matter before that standing committee, that can be done. If he wishes to take action when that committee endeavours to report, there are certain things that may take place. However, I have to accept what he has described and examine it to see whether on its face it constitutes privilege, but from what he has told me so far I am not able to do that.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not resent the report of the steering committee. What I resent is the interference by the Minister of Finance with an agreement that had been reached among members of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. I do not

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

appreciate this attempt to pull the strings of a standing committee of Parliament to which the minister is subject. It is not the committee that is subject to the Minister of Finance. If he wants to hide behind the governor of the Bank of Canada, let him go right ahead and do that, but do not make me a party to that kind of jiggery-pokery.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have indicated to the hon. member that he has raised what he considers to be matter of resentment. It may even be a grievance that he can air before the committee. However, I cannot find any basis for privilege in it.

MR. YURKO—MOTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—  
OMISSION IN OFFICIAL REPORT

**Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege to draw to your attention and to the attention of the House a serious printing error in *Hansard* which I noted last night. This is an unfortunate printing error but it is necessary that I point it out and that *Hansard* should correct it, as it changes the entire meaning of a paragraph.

The error relates to notice of motion No. 2 which was debated in this House on Monday, October 22. In the Monday, October 22 order paper, the second paragraph in paragraph 10 read as follows:

On the receipt of such validated petition, the Parliament of Canada shall, before the lapsing of two full years from the date of receipt of the validated petition, hold a national referendum on the substance of the petition and shall enact into law the substance of the petition if such petition receives a 75 per cent plurality of all votes in Canada and no less than a 50 per cent plurality of all votes in each and every province of Canada.

I should note that *Votes and Proceedings* of October 22, 1979, is identical in this respect to the order paper. However, Mr. Speaker, *Hansard* itself has an entirely different version and I shall read it as follows:

On the receipt of such validated petition, the Parliament of Canada shall, before the lapsing of two full years from the date of receipt of the validated petition, hold a national referendum on the substance of the petition if such petition receives a 75 per cent plurality of all votes in Canada and no less than a 50 per cent plurality of all votes in each and every province of Canada.

The sentence "and shall enact into law the substance of the petition" was left out of *Hansard*. I brought this to the attention of *Hansard* and I hope the correction will be made.

MR. KNOWLES—ACTING MINISTERS—TABLING OF ORDER IN  
COUNCIL

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Earlier today the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens) responded to a question in his capacity as the Acting Minister of Finance, which leads me to suggest that it would be of advantage to all members of this House if the order in council indicating who are the various acting ministers could be tabled, so that we might all know. Perhaps if the government House leader arranged for the tabling of that order in council, it could be appended either