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JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1971

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

And a question of privilege having been raised by the honourable Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) concerning statements made by Ministers in and outside this House;

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yukon has given notice of his intention to bring this matter forward by way of a question of privilege. As the honourable Member knows, there is a slight technical difficulty in that the Standing Order does require an hour's notice to give the Chair an opportunity of looking into the matter and considering precedents and citations. Unfortunately, because of circumstances beyond the honourable Member's control, there was a slight delay, but I am satisfied that the honourable Member is not responsible for that delay and I accepted his question of privilege as satisfying, on that count, the requirement of the Standing Order.

The honourable Member is putting to the Chair, so the Chair can consider submitting it to the House, a proposed question of privilege which I submit is essentially the same as one proposed the day before yesterday. The Chair considered the matter extensively having asked the forbearance of honourable Members and the cooperation of the House to give me an opportunity of

looking into the precedents and citations, which I did for some hours in the afternoon. As a result of this consideration I made a ruling which is reported at pages 9618 and 9619 of Commons Debates for November 16.

I suggest to the honourable Member that the precedents quoted therein are applicable to the circumstances on which the proposed questions of privilege are based. I do not want to be unfair to the honourable Member, but the impression I get is that he has considered the ruling that the Chair delivered on November 16, found it wanting, and in a way is now appealing, in effect, that decision. I do not think an appeal is possible, either directly or indirectly, from a decision of the Chair. If a ruling were delivered by the Chair on a given set of circumstances, I think it would be highly irregular for the Chair, on the same set of circumstances, to deliver a different ruling.

The honourable Member has made much of the ruling of the Chair in regard to statements made outside the House. The honourable Member knows even better than I the rulings which have been made on this subject, speaking from memory now, in 1964, I believe, by my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Speaker Macnaughton, on statements made outside the House. I was Deputy Speaker at that time and following these matters with some