

*Interim Supply*

this is the most suitable period to raise the matter because on interim supply, as on all supply debates, grievances may be raised. This is a legitimate grievance regarding the action of an hon. member who was a member of the flag committee. I think the hon. member for Bow River is within his rights in raising this topic.

**The Chairman:** The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre refers to the fact that the privileges of this house have been infringed. This is possible. The Chair cannot, of course, dispute that in any way but machinery is provided to deal with that kind of situation through a substantive motion. Certainly in my view, however, this matter should not be discussed on interim supply because it concerns the personal conduct of an hon. member. In this regard perhaps it might be appropriate to refer the hon. member to citation 128 (1) of Beauchesne's fourth edition, which reads as follows:

A personal attack—

I realize this is not a personal attack in the sense of personalities, but it is personal in the sense that it is directed at one individual member.

—by one member upon another, is an offence against the house, in the person of one of its members, which, on account of the respect due from every member to the character and dignity of the house, as well as the importance of preserving regularity in the debates, calls for the prompt interference of the Speaker, in order that any irregularity, into which a member may have been betrayed in the warmth of debate, may be rectified—

And so on. That is the view of the Chair.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Chairman, may I speak before you make a ruling?

**The Chairman:** Yes, I would be pleased to hear the views of the hon. member on this subject before I make a ruling.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that you have read a specific rule, but with the greatest respect I suggest that it is not applicable.

I am not going into detail this afternoon, but what I am attempting to discuss is this. We have a new kind of government: We now have government through newspapers. We are observing news leaks and government through those news leaks rather than by parliament. I suggest that the whole process of government is in question.

I am not making any personal attack at this moment on the member for Vancouver Quadra, but he happens to be one of the actors who has acted on behalf of and for

[Mr. Churchill.]

the government. He is the man who allowed the news to leak out so that we could have government by newspapers rather than government by parliament.

Mr. Chairman, the rights and privileges of parliament are at stake, and the expenditure of money is at stake. Surely those matters are related to the matter under discussion this afternoon. This situation was only brought to our attention a few minutes before we came into the house this afternoon. I had some idea of the kind of motion I would move if I intended to make a personal attack, and that is something I may do tomorrow when we have more time; but today we are discussing the privileges of parliament itself.

The news item in question is nothing more than a new kind of process of Liberal government. It is government by the Prime Minister's nephew through the *Ottawa Citizen*. I submit that we have the right to debate this serious matter this afternoon. I can understand the attitude taken by the government in opposition to my suggestion. They adopt that attitude because they are frightened and do not want these facts disclosed to the Canadian people. The government wants to keep the opposition silent in this regard. We do not intend to be silent about this question. Of course I must respect your ruling, but if you rule against me, and I say this with respect, we may appeal your ruling. We have the right this afternoon to discuss this situation. It should be aired because it goes to the very foundation of this institution.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Mr. Chairman, I should like to make some observations in relation to the question now troubling you, and the point of order which has been raised in connection with a discussion of this matter.

It seems to me that there is no doubt whatsoever that we are in this committee to discuss the matter of interim supply for the next two months. We are being asked to supply funds to pay all the expenses of parliament and expenses related to committees of parliament. One parliamentary committee is now under discussion. The expenses of that committee will have to be paid by this parliament, and I say to you that if any member on any side of this house chooses to raise a point related to the matter now before this committee he has a perfect right to do so. If that discussion reflects upon the actions of a member of that committee, that is unfortunate, but it is not the point at issue. The point is that we are being