

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, March 18, 1965

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a communication has been received, as follows:

18 March 1965

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Robert Taschereau, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 18th March at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. Cherrier

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

PRIVILEGE

MR. PERRON—SYSTEM OF CALLING LIBERAL MEMBERS FOR VOTES IN COMMITTEE—
STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Last Wednesday, March 10, the hon. member for Beauce rose on a question of privilege which I considered to be more in the nature of a complaint. It concerned his assertion that a buzzer system had been installed in the offices of Liberal members only for the purpose of notifying them of votes when the house is sitting in committee of the whole. I promised to check the facts and to consider the matter.

I have been informed that there is such a buzzer system hooked into the whips' offices but that it serves both Liberal and Conservative members. However, it is limited to members whose offices are located in the west block. There is no such system in the centre block.

I have been advised that, in 1961, when renovations were being planned for the west block the government of the day decided to provide these buzzers in all members' offices in the west block.

The reason for the installation was the distance from the chamber and the consequent

difficulty of reaching members by messenger. Members of all parties whose offices are in the centre block continue to be contacted by their whips, by messenger or by telephone.

I believe that all members of the hon. member for Beauce's group are located in the centre block and that there are only a handful of New Democratic members and Social Credit members in the west block. I assume that their whips experience no difficulty in reaching them by telephone or messenger.

[*Text*]

MR. DIEFENBAKER—RESOLUTION OF ONTARIO LEGISLATURE RESPECTING REPATRIATION OF CONSTITUTION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I rise on a question of privilege that affects this house. I cannot make it applicable, of course, to the other place. It has to do with a resolution which came before the legislature of Ontario one week ago in connection with the repatriation proceedings and the confirmation by the provinces of certain arrangements entered into or agreed to by the attorneys general of the several provinces.

Our order paper shows nothing thereon in relation to an address in this connection. However, a week ago the legislature of Ontario dealt with the following resolution, and I read from the words of the attorney general for Ontario:

The resolution which I have the honour to move appears on the votes and procedures of this legislature as follows:

"That this house approves and supports the addresses of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that Her Majesty may graciously be pleased to cause a bill to be laid before the parliament of the United Kingdom in the following terms:

Then follows a draft of the proposed act. In other words, what has taken place is indeed something that affects the rights and privileges of this House of Commons in particular. A resolution approving and supporting the addresses of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada is one which no one would criticize the right of the legislature of Ontario to pass. But this resolution does not represent the facts nor the state of