

doing that. I am referring to a general statement, not made in debate, but a statement which was made on December 5, the opening day of the session. Therefore it does not come within the rules, and I am perfectly at liberty to refer to it.

The CHAIRMAN: The rule is that an hon. member may not refer to a debate on the same subject during the same session. I am sure this matter was not before the house in December. I have not a copy of *Hansard* before me, but if my memory serves me correctly this matter was not before the house at that time. The rule says it cannot be on the same subject. I think the debate in December was not on this subject, and I must rule it out of order.

Mr. BRACKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CLEAVER: My criticism of the speeches made last night on the matter we are now debating was directed to the fact that the constitutional question had been permitted to ride along for nearly four months, before being brought up at all. I was referring to a speech which the leader of the opposition had made, not in debate. However, if I understand the ruling of the Chair correctly, I shall not pursue that matter further.

Mr. BRACKEN: I rise to another point of order. The hon. member for Halton says that this was not in a debate. If he will refer to *Hansard* of December 5, page 4, he will see it was in a debate in respect of a motion made by the Prime Minister with respect to procedure.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Which was voted on and disposed of.

The CHAIRMAN: I see no reason for changing my ruling. As the hon. member knows the ruling of the Chair is not debatable.

Mr. CLEAVER: I understand the ruling, and I shall be pleased to comply with it.

Then, as to the suddenness with which this argument on the constitutional question has been brought before us, four months after the event, I have nothing further to add to what I have already said.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Will the hon. member permit a question? He refused last night because he had only ten minutes; but he would have time now. I suggest to him that I raised this identical question with the Minister of Finance—and if the hon. member cares to consult with the minister, I am sure he will agree—and that was long before Christmas. Do you admit I am right, or do you not?

[Mr. Cleaver.]

Mr. CLEAVER: If my hon. friend will give me the reference number in *Hansard* I shall be pleased to turn it up and read it now—

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): I do not wish you to read it into *Hansard* now.

Mr. CLEAVER:—even though the Chair has ruled that I must not go on with it.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): You said last night that no one had raised it. I said I had. Am I right or wrong?

Mr. CLEAVER: My answer is that I should like to have the reference.

The CHAIRMAN: Order; the hon. member for Halton has the floor.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Ask the Minister of Finance; he will tell you.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): And it is not four months ago, either.

Mr. CLEAVER: If the hon. member wishes to be fair, and finds the reference, he can give it to me. The only two speeches I recall the hon. member making were in respect of the wheat board—an interesting speech which I enjoyed—and one in which he discussed the procedure parliament should follow in regard to debates. I have no recollection of anything else. However, if there is anything else, and if my hon. friend will give me the reference, I shall gladly now put it on the record.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): The Minister of Finance will tell you; he was here.

Mr. FLEMING: The hon. member wants the reference?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Halton has the floor.

Mr. FLEMING: I thought he was asking for the reference. I am quite prepared to give it, if he wishes to have it.

An hon. MEMBER: He is not asking you.

Mr. FLEMING: The hon. member for Calgary West spoke on the question on December 16 in the house.

Mr. CLEAVER: Page?

Mr. FLEMING: His remarks are found at page 358 of *Hansard*. He dealt with this particular question, and the Minister of Finance—

Mr. CLEAVER: I am not consenting to have the hon. member make a statement. I would be pleased, however, to have the reference, and I would call the attention of the house and the Chair to the fact that that speech was made in the debate on the foreign