

Privilege

committee meeting were for November 22. This Board of Internal Economy which he is on was anticipatory. It read the minds of this mysterious member who sometime later was going to complain. That is absurd.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I just want to say that I am happy to correct the record.

Mr. Speaker: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to correct the record, I would like to hear him.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I am just happy to say that the meeting in question in which the issue was raised by a Conservative member preceded the date of the Speaker's letter. I will readily concede that.

Mr. Andre: Will you concede one more thing? I have one more thing that I would like you to concede. You said that the letter from Mr. Speaker was merely a request to look into it.

Will you concede also that on the strength of the request from the Commissioners of Internal Economy, a lawyer was hired to draft the potential regulations? Will you concede that that letter also contained the draft regulations in the letter?

An Hon. Member: Address the Chair.

Mr. Andre: Will he concede that that is something more than what he has implied now as merely an expression of "Gee, is it possible for you to consider this?"

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of which lawyer drafted the regulation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Andre: I am tired of hearing your accusations. You were there; I was not. You were there and you asked for it.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the hon. minister and the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition to let the Speaker intervene. I have listened to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and I have listened to the reply.

First, it is not a question of privilege.

Second, this is developing into debate. I think that in the interests of other hon. members who have business to bring before the House we should conclude the remarks.

There is a series of points of privilege. I will deal with them as they were delivered to me. They may well involve the same issue.

The first hon. member whom I will hear will be the hon. member for Burin—St. George's. I will give him sufficient time to explain the circumstances and to explain his claim for privilege.

If a number of other applications are on exactly the same point, I want to make it clear to the House at the moment that while I will hear individual members I do not intend to hear the same facts and the same argument repeated endlessly. If hon. members want to look for any examples, this is the practice that we have followed for a long time. A number of members may have the same grievance but if the same points and the same facts have earlier been argued then there is no need to repeat them endlessly. I would ask hon. members to keep that in mind.

In any event we have a number of applications. It is not for me to indicate to the House from whom they are, but I will be watching for members. I notice the hon. member for Burin—St. George's has already been on his feet and I recognize the hon. member.

Mr. Riis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kamloops on a point of order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I will take only take a moment or two of my hon. colleague's time. I did send notification to the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicating that I plan to rise on a point of privilege as a result of a near physical assault in the House of Commons yesterday.

The fact that he is here and the fact that if we are going to raise a point of privilege regarding an individual member, perhaps he would see fit to stay in the House so that we have a chance to raise that point of privilege at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kamloops has communicated with the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs in perhaps an ingenious way, but perhaps not altogether within the rules. I am going to leave the message where it has been sent.

In any event, I have to take the points of privilege in order and start with the hon. member for Burin—St. George's.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, as required, I gave notice of my intention to raise a question of privilege arising from the abridge-