

Electoral Boundaries Commission

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I am rising to request that you insist on enforcing the rules governing our procedure. It is now five o'clock and we should now proceed to the next order of business.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Vancouver East, may I say I appreciate the hon. gentleman's attempt—

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Vancouver East—

The Chairman: Order. The hon. gentleman has just mentioned that he is now speaking to a point of order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No, no.

The Chairman: As this is a different matter I regret that I must inform the hon. gentleman that I am required to report progress.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I was rising on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Vancouver East. Under the rules of the house a question of privilege must be heard forthwith. If I wanted any better authority, it is the statement of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Grafty: Under what rule must a question of privilege be heard forthwith?

The Chairman: Order. The hon. gentleman stated that he had a question of privilege. He was given an opportunity to state it and now he rises on a point of order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): With deference, Mr. Chairman, that is not correct.

Mr. Nowlan: Order.

The Chairman: If the hon. gentleman has a question of privilege which he can state succinctly I am willing to hear him, and then I shall report to the Speaker.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, may I point out that at two minutes after five no one can raise a question of privilege or a point of order under our rules.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Winch: It is not allowed under the rules.

The Chairman: Order. I will hear the hon. member for Essex East.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I simply wish to say to the Prime Minister with regard to the matter he has raised and which has provoked this question of privilege, this is the second time—

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

The Chairman: Order. I asked the hon. gentleman to state his question of privilege but I do not feel that at this time, it being past five o'clock, he may engage in a debate, and obviously he was beginning to engage in a debate in addressing his remarks to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I would ask you to consider carefully what you have just said. My question of privilege arises out of what the right hon. gentleman has said and I cannot begin to state my question of privilege unless I address myself to what the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister for the second time showed that remarkable sense of the dignity of his high office by once again making a personal aspersion. I simply—

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I finish?

The Chairman: Order. Will the hon. gentleman please resume his seat while the chairman is on his feet. I am satisfied that the matter that the hon. gentleman has just raised, interesting as it may be, is not a matter of privilege that must be taken up at this instant and I feel—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You just said a moment ago that I could.

The Chairman:—that according to the rules I must interrupt this sitting at this time so that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business, and I accordingly do so.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You just said a moment ago that I could.

Progress reported.

PRIVILEGE

MR. MARTIN, ESSEX EAST—REFERENCE TO REMARKS OF PRIME MINISTER IN DEBATE

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, just before five o'clock and before Your Honour took the chair the Prime Minister made what can only be regarded as a reflection involving my person and my attitude toward public questions in this house. At that time Mr. Deputy Speaker thought that I would have to raise the question of privilege after five o'clock and that I am now doing. To deal with the question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry but I am not empowered to deal with a matter which arises in committee and on which the committee has not reported to me.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, we are in this amazing situation. Under our rules a question of privilege must be raised forthwith at the earliest opportunity and if I had