

Routine Proceedings

non-compliance. I ask the Speaker's guidance here. I know it is not an interpretation of law, but would that not be the equivalent of a breach of the privileges of this House? I seek the guidance of the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond seeks the guidance of the Chair. The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond also makes a very cogent argument. Perhaps he would have been happy to make that argument a few days earlier.

Whether the hon. member did or not, if the hon. member considers carefully what the Chair said, I think it would be very unwise for anyone to take from the judgment that I have just given that the deliberate refusal to file documents that are to be filed under statute law to committee or to this House would necessarily be treated as not a contempt of the House. If one looks also very carefully at what the Chair has said, I think I have made it clear that I would be prepared to hear further from the committee in question. If there is any need for a further caveat to any assumption that any deliberate refusal to proceed with a mandate of law in filing documents to this House or to these committees, it would be very foolish to assume that the Chair in all circumstances would be mute.

I do not think I need any further comment from hon. members.

Mr. Dingwall: Would the Chair entertain a question?

Mr. Speaker: I listened very carefully to the hon. member and there are, of course, skilful ways to extend an argument past a judgment. I tried to make it very clear. If hon. members will look carefully at what I said and if those who serve ministers in departments will look very carefully at what I said, I do not think there will be too much doubt in anybody's mind that consequences could indeed be very serious.

At the moment I suggested that the committee might look at it again. Depending on what the committee decides, I may hear the matter further.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

HOUSE MANAGEMENT**21ST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the 21st report of the Standing Committee on House Management pursuant to Standing Order 104. If the House gives its consent, I intend to move concurrence in this report later this day.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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PUBLIC SERVICE NATIONAL WEEK ACT**MEASURE TO ENACT**

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-328, an act respecting a national week of the Public Service.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 68(2), the motion is deemed adopted.

Mrs. Catterall: Very briefly, this bill is presented because Canada has developed as a result of a very dynamic and flexible partnership between the public sector and the private sector a partnership that is even more crucial as we face the difficult economic times in this country and the challenges of the future.

The bill is presented in recognition of the value of the services provided by public service employees, acknowledges their contributions, and asks that the third week of the month of June every year be known as Public Service National Week.

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. Catterall moves that the bill be now read the first time and printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed adopted.

Bill read the first time and printed.