

No. 10

JOURNALS
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OF CANADA

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1952.

PRAYERS.

Fifteen petitions were laid on the Table.

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: May I be permitted to make a statement at this time? Apparently my remarks on Monday have been interpreted by some Members as changing the practice with respect to routine proceedings generally. I did not intend them to have that effect. I made my statement because I felt that last Session I had allowed a practice to develop which permitted a Member to rise at the opening of the House on a so-called question of privilege and to discuss certain matters which had taken place outside the House. That was a departure from our rules, and I did not think it was in the interest of Parliament to allow it to continue.

As Beauchesne states: "A question of privilege ought rarely to come up in Parliament". He further states: "Wilful disobedience to Orders and Rules of Parliament in the exercise of its constitutional functions; insults and obstructions during debate, are breaches of the privileges of the House". These and other breaches of privilege, when they occur, should be brought to the attention of the House, and should be taken into consideration immediately and followed by the appropriate motion.

I do not need to remind Honourable Members that it is not a question of privilege whether a Member should or should not have made a speech outside the House or whether it would have been preferable to make it in the House. If the speech was made in wilful disobedience to the Orders and Rules of Parliament, or contained libels on Members, it would of course be a question of privilege which should be raised in the House. Otherwise the matter should