

due respect, because I could have lost my temper more than I did. But I was respectful to him and I even neglected to publish a brief I tabled, it was actually one of the first briefs to be tabled, and it was not published.

I asked members who sat on the executive or steering committee, if you prefer, and I saw that my brief had been scratched from the list. I asked the members of the steering committee to appear as witness, because I felt I was able to discuss the brief I had tabled, and felt capable of answering questions that might be put to me. And I was told: "When the opportunity occurs, you will be asked to appear. When we run out of—"

Mr. Gray: Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege. I wish to give the members of the committee of the whole the assurance that no one prevented the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac (Mr. Latulippe) from appearing before the committee on finance, trade and economic affairs as a witness. He himself told the committee that he was withdrawing his initial request to appear as witness, and if he is not satisfied now it is his own fault.

Some hon. Members: Hear, Hear.

Mr. Gray: He was very often present at the committee sittings as a regular member and he asked questions. All the questions that were in order were accepted. But it is the hon. member's responsibility, just as it is any other committee member's, to conform to the rules. At that time, he accepted quite pleasantly, the rulings of the Chair and of the other committee members. I would not like the record of the committee of the whole to report erroneous statements such as those the hon. member has just uttered, and if other members of the committee are in the house at this time, I feel they will agree with me that the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac was perfectly free, as were all other members of the committee, to work in committee and to appear as witness, if he so wished, at the proper time.

Mr. Grégoire: On the question of privilege of the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Gray), sir, I also had some grievances to submit with regard to the attitude of the chairman of the committee, who, I think, did not preside over the business in an impartial way, who, on many occasions, prevented us from putting questions and who, to put it briefly, managed to take the floor much more often than all the other committee members, and I

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shall make it a point to submit evidence of this a little later on.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a word on this question of privilege. I think that no committee of finance, trade and economic affairs ever sat as we did this year. Indeed since last October, we held 110 sittings, including 90 on the Bank Act. All hon. members had an opportunity to put the questions they wanted, but in the committee, as in the house, there is a rule which prohibits repetitions *ad infinitum* such as those now being served on us here in this house.

Of course, I do not know what objective is sought by those who persist in always putting the same questions. There may be differences of opinion, but the rules do not permit repetition and the chairman of the committee, then, made an excellent job, as can be confirmed by the members who sat on that committee. As far as the hon. member for Compton-Frontenac is concerned, he was called upon to give evidence, but he declined the invitation; that is why we did not discuss his brief.

I think the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Cameron) and the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Monteith) can testify to this.

[English]

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Chairman, I want to take a few moments to corroborate completely everything the hon. member for Essex West has said. The one criticism I would make of the hon. member as chairman of that committee is that he was altogether too considerate of members of the committee who had no consideration for their fellow members.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): With regard to the hon. member who complained that he was not allowed to present his brief, I have a distinct recollection of the hon. member being asked by the steering committee whether he wished to present his brief himself. He told us he did not wish to present it and was satisfied merely to deposit it. We should take great care to see that statements of the kind which have been made do not go unchallenged on the record.

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Chairman, as a member of the steering committee I agree with the