

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 25, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

### PRIVILEGE

MR. MACQUARRIE—MEMBERS' RIGHT TO ENTER  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS—STATEMENT  
BY MR. SPEAKER

**Mr. Speaker:** A few days ago the hon. member for Hillsborough raised in the House as a question of privilege the matter of free access to the Parliament Buildings by members of the House of Commons. The complaint arose following an official visit to the centre block of the Parliament Buildings by the Minister of External Affairs for Israel. Certain reports suggested that some hon. members had been prevented from gaining access to the building during the minister's visit to the centre block.

I should take this opportunity to restate, if this is necessary at all, the time-honoured privilege of hon. members to have free and unimpeded access to the Parliament Buildings. This principle should be recognized even if there is some question as to the extension of the term "parliamentary precincts", and in particular whether the jurisdiction of the Speaker, exercised on behalf of hon. members, extends beyond the limits of the Parliament Buildings themselves. In any event, the incident referred to by the hon. member for Hillsborough has been the subject of an investigation conducted under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The report which I have now received indicates that as part of security arrangements the Royal Canadian Mounted Police kept people away from the main entrance to the centre block during the two brief periods while the minister actually entered and left the building. Arrangements were made with the House of Commons security personnel to stand just outside the main entrance to identify anyone approaching the building for admission. The report states that no one, that is, no member of the House and no member of our staff, was denied admission during the period. It is recognized, however, that there might have been a momentary delay if a

member had to be identified by the protective staff officer posted outside the main entrance for this purpose.

In any event, I think I should reiterate the essential point made in the report submitted by the Sergeant-at-Arms, that in fact no member was denied access to the building on the occasion in question.

[Translation]

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

##### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tenth report of Standing Committee of Transport and Communications, in French and in English.—Mr. Lessard (LaSalle).

##### FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Seventeenth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, in French and in English.—Mr. Clermont.

##### MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

First report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, in French and in English.—Mr. Duquet.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[English]

##### NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

Sixth report of Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works—Mr. Hopkins.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### TABLING OF FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON COUNCIL MEETING OF ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table, in both official languages, copies of the final communiqué issued on May 22,