

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why any hon. member should impose upon this house. The hon. gentleman has a habit of doing certain things, and it passes for wit. If he desires to discuss a question of privilege let him state what the question of privilege is. That can be done very shortly.

Mr. NEILL: I will if the honourable house will undertake not to interrupt me.

The question of privilege is that on February 14, in a debate in this house a certain statement was made of pregnant importance to the matter under discussion, and that thirty-one words of it, in the language of the Minister of Marine were deleted, did not appear in Hansard. That is a substantial question, I would like to prove it for one thing, I would like to read the words and to show that they were pregnant to the subject. Am I in order in doing that? I was going to say, sir—

Mr. BENNETT: That is the question of privilege now. That is the end of it.

Mr. NEILL: —that had the deletion only been a mere slip that the minister had made I would not have worried, but it goes far to establish one of the claims that I was making at the moment. I will quote the omitted words:

Comparative prices were not obtained and in this regard I have to advise that Mr. Graham asked that if this work were put in hand that local men should be employed.

Now who is this Mr. Graham who was consulted and gives advice, but whose name, it appears, it is undesirable to have appear in Hansard?

Mr. BENNETT: If the rules of the house are to be observed at all we might as well face this matter now. The hon. member is merely defying this house and the chair. He is talking now about who Mr. Graham is. He is interjecting observations of that character. The question of privilege has been stated, he has a right to amplify what he has said to make it clear that there has been a deletion from the record of what he deems to be important words. That is a question of fact that your predecessor, sir, on a certain occasion said would make necessary an inquiry to ascertain and report to the house; there is no doubt about that. But to interlard his reading with statements respecting Mr. Graham or someone else is merely to cast contempt on the chair and treat this house with disrespect.

[Mr. Neill.]

Mr. POULIOT: On a point of order, might I suggest that the government avail itself of section 98 of the criminal code in this matter?

Mr. NEILL: Will Mr. Speaker, give his ruling on the question of privilege I have raised?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member having stated his question of privilege, we will proceed with the debate, if debate is necessary, on the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair and the house resolve itself into committee of supply. Certainly the hon. member cannot revive a debate that took place on the former occasion when the question was before the house. I will quote from May for the information of the house the following comment on standing order 41:

It is a wholesome restraint upon members to prevent them from reviving a debate already concluded; and it would be little use in preventing the same question from being offered twice in the same session if, without being offered, its merits might be discussed again and again.

The hon. member without doubt has undertaken to discuss again what he discussed formerly on the motion that the Speaker leave the chair for the house to go into committee of supply.

Mr. NEILL: I bow to your ruling. I will be allowed to discuss it when we are in committee, I take it?

Mr. BENNETT: The chairman of the committee will decide that.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is open to any hon. member to discuss a motion before the house, but not to revive a debate already concluded.

Mr. NEILL: I submit to your ruling, sir, but I ask; Will I be allowed to discuss it when we are in committee on the estimates?

Mr. SPEAKER: On a proper occasion, but not in the manner in which the hon. member is seeking to do it now.

Mr. NEILL: I beg pardon, sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: It can be discussed on a proper occasion, but this is not one.

Mr. NEILL: I thought you said the manner in which I was doing it. The manner is mine, I have a right to do it in any manner I choose.

Mr. BENNETT: No, the practice of parliament governs manner as well.

Mr. SPEAKER: Manner or method, whichever word may be preferred.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. NEILL: On division!