

Privilege

the hon. member for Kamloops said and others have said, in a civil way.

I will hear the hon. member for Kamloops for a few minutes so that I can get a sense of where it is going. I will come back to the member for Calgary West. If there cannot be some arrangement to continue the discussions, a continuation might be helpful. The hon. member for Calgary West has all his rights under his question of privilege.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I think your intervention is appropriate. I read from both the committee report and the proposed legislation. I accept in part what the hon. member for Calgary West has indicated, but only in part. Obviously there are obvious areas of either disagreement or areas requiring further clarification. I do not think this is the place to get into the nuances of Bill C-79. We have a committee that is struck especially for that purpose. It has done an incredible amount of work to date. I hope that that committee will continue in that same spirit.

Considering some of the allegations my hon. friend has levied at me, I feel some obligation on behalf of my constituents to respond. I plan to do that briefly and concisely. I will simply leave the continuation of a comment on section 52.8.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt. Could the hon. member provide us with his reference for those allegations? Some of them that he has mentioned so far are in my question of privilege which I have not delivered yet. I am not sure where the allegations have been made. It may be that I did make them on radio or in some other place. If he could do the courtesy of letting me know where I made those allegations so that I could look at the full text, I would appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker: It might help the Chair and the House if the hon. member for Kamloops were to summarize what he thinks is the gist of the allegations and express what I am sure he is going to express, that is that he is in disagreement with the hon. member for Calgary West with respect to those.

That is quite obvious to all of us. I certainly will allow him to get that on the record. If there is going to be some further discussion with the idea of trying to resolve this in a careful way, I do not know how much need there is

to be absolutely specific. I will hear the hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, to help my hon. friend, on October 12 he spoke for about a quarter of an hour about the various allegations. It is from that source in *Hansard* where I take most of my comments in terms of his utterances. I do not know if he made other comments publicly or not.

I will simply say that the Whip in those proceedings suggested I infringed his privileges or was contemptuous of the House when I said that: "The government insisted on that clause in response to pressure from its Quebec caucus." Similarly, he objects to the statement attributed to me in the press that the majority of politicians who are the subject of the investigations which prompted the introduction of Bill C-79 came from the province of Quebec.

The member for Calgary West also alleges that I have established a consistent pattern of undermining the work of the Board of Internal Economy by speaking publicly about matters which are the subject of discussion in the board. At the outset, I would like to comment that the Bill C-79 committee met and made its decision in public. The committee has yet to report to the House. For the member to suggest that we should refrain from commenting on the committee's deliberations until a transcript is published and the bill is reported to the House demonstrates what I suspect is a lack of respect for the public comment on these important public issues.

• (1550)

Let me first deal with his allegation that I am wrong in saying that the government has a majority on the special committee on the review of the Parliament of Canada Act. What was reported in *The Kamloops Daily News* was that "The Conservatives have with the Bloc Quebecois voted to place MPs above the law". That is essentially what I was saying. Mr. Fife, in *The Ottawa Sun*, reported: "Riis attacked the Tories yesterday for using their majority on a Commons committee".

What was alleged was that my hon. friend, the hon. member for Calgary West, said in the House on Friday, October 12, as reported at page 14106 of *Hansard*, and I quote:

He says things that are simply not true.