

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 24, 1968

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate has passed Bill No. S-8, an act to amend the Supreme Court Act, to which the concurrence of this house is desired.

PRIVILEGE

MR. LEWIS—ALLEGED ALTERATION IN HANSARD REPORT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege affecting *Hansard* and an answer therein recorded which came from the right hon. Prime Minister. I am referring to page 1936, the bottom of the left hand column. I asked the Prime Minister a question with regard to foreign aid provided by Canada. The Prime Minister is recorded as having said the following, and I am particularly referring to the last sentence of his answer at the bottom of the column:

We are still aiming in this direction, and perhaps in next year's budget we will discover new ways of finding more money so we can help more people in other countries.

I am quite confident in my mind, Mr. Speaker, and I have not the slightest doubt that that is not what the Prime Minister said; that the Prime Minister said "We will discover new ways of levying more money so we can help more people in other countries."

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lewis: And the difference, Mr. Speaker, is very significant. That answer astounded me at the time because it seemed to me to have a very definite edge to it. It warned the Canadian people that they would have to pay more taxes. The word was "levying", Mr. Speaker, and it was changed. That changes entirely the meaning of the Prime Minister's answer and I submit, sir, that this is an abuse of the editing privilege that members of the house have. I hope the Prime Minister will see to it that this is corrected and that the true answer is put in *Hansard*.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am perhaps not getting the inference, subtle or otherwise, of the point of privilege. I can only say that my memory is of having used "finding". I do not know that any correction was done. If I did say "levying" I am quite prepared to leave it at that, but I confess that when I made the answer, Mr. Speaker, I did not have any of this distinction in mind. I do not believe any correction was made, in my name or otherwise.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, that is the Prime Minister's statement. I suggest that in his reply he used the word "levying". If he now states that he is prepared to say to *Hansard* that the original word is to be reintroduced, that satisfies me.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, quite frankly I find myself in agreement with the hon. member for York South.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Stanfield: I suggest in all seriousness to hon. members opposite who may joke about this that the integrity of *Hansard* is as important as the integrity of forecasts of estimates is important.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: I say in all sincerity that the sense I had of what the Prime Minister said was that the government might be able to raise or levy more money for this purpose. It was not that it would find ways to raise additional money for this purpose. So I must rise in support of the hon. member for York South on this point.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, my recollection again is having used "finding". "Levying" is a rather more sophisticated word, and as hon. members know I do not use sophisticated words.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Trudeau: I can put my feeling on record. I wanted to convey to hon. members