

Inquiries of the Ministry

intend to invite him or his colleagues into my shower. They will have to find their own.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Lotbinière wish to speak on the point of order.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to point out, with due respect, that when the guests of the members are in the galleries, they are not authorized to read or to make notes, as they are liable to be expelled from the house. In my opinion, the same rule should apply to all officials who are in fact intruders in the house.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind to the hon. member that usage of long standing allows the officials to sit in the special gallery and to make notes.

[English]

The point of order raised by the hon. member for Calgary North is of interest, but the only way I could act would be if, under standing order 13, the hon. member asked that certain specific strangers be excluded.

Mr. Woolliams: I don't know their names.

Mr. Speaker: I assume he does not want the entire gallery emptied.

If the hon. member wants me to put the question to the house and ask that the house be called upon to resolve the matter and decide whether one, two or three persons in the gallery be expelled, I will hear him and according to standing order 13, as suggested by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, I will have no hesitation at all in putting the question to the house.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the names of these two strangers, but I can describe them for you. I am sure you will recognize them and I believe they will now leave of their own accord. They are sitting beside the translation box. They are two men in dark suits, one with long sideburns—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: The other fellow is in a dark suit. I think they should be removed, and according to the standing order to which you referred I ask you to direct that those two gentlemen leave the gallery and keep it pure for the guests.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not sure whether the description given by the hon. member would make it possible for me to put the motion to the house, because I would be called upon to repeat the description. However, I wonder whether the house would agree that in view of the fact that the question period expired some minutes ago, and that whoever these gentlemen are their work would normally be finished by this time and they will leave the gallery of their own accord together with their other colleagues, we might, for this day in any event, abandon the matter. If the situation arises again and there is cause for complaint, then the matter may be reconsidered.

I believe there are four or five points of order which hon. members wish to raise.

[Later:]

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I ask Your Honour to give consideration, on behalf of members of parliament, to the matter that was raised in the previous question of privilege in connection with the keeping of a record of attendance of members in the house. It seems to me that a record of attendance is being taken in a very informal way which can be detrimental to members of parliament on all sides of the house. If this is going to be allowed I strongly urge Your Honour to give consideration to keeping a formal attendance record so there can be no abuse, as there was in the matter of quorums and the attendance of members in committees last year. I believe that record was used dishonestly. So I suggest that Your Honour give consideration to publishing a formal attendance record so that unfair use cannot be made of the absence of certain members on certain days.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the best way for the Chair to deal with the hon. member's suggestion is to advise him that I shall be pleased to take official note of it and bring it to the attention of the committee on procedure if and when it meets again.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It certainly will.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If what you suggested is done, would you also ask the members of the committee to consider as well the fact that the opposition draws attention to the absence of ministers on this side.