

Questions of Privilege

member of the Liberal cabinet and, finally, Prime Minister. I was also here, of course, during the session when he sat on this side of the House as the Leader of the Official Opposition.

On my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues I wish to underline what has been said about the unfailing courtesy of Mr. St. Laurent. He was always the gentleman. It was midway through his career as Prime Minister that he became known as "Uncle Louie". Indeed that designation was not something coined in jest but rather in affection because we found him to be just that kind of person.

It must also be said that he made a singular contribution to the development of this country in terms of national unity, and in terms of making progress with respect to the achieving of a constitution that might meet all our needs. I suspect that historians will some day discover and point out that if it had not been for the Korean war, which interrupted certain plans that I know he had, we might well have made further progress than we did in that respect while he was Prime Minister.

We remember him with affection, and we feel that the House is quite appropriately taking a few minutes today to extend to Mr. St. Laurent our warmest greetings and congratulations on this his ninety-first birthday. I join with the Prime Minister in associating this group with the suggestion made by the right hon. member for Prince Albert that you, Sir, extend to Mr. St. Laurent the cordial greetings of this House of Commons and our best wishes to him for many happy returns.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues of the Social Credit Party of Canada I should like to join in the good wishes extended by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to the former Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent on the occasion of his 91st birthday.

I did not have the good fortune, as did my two colleagues of the opposition, to see at close range this great statesman at work, but I did work under him. When Mr. St. Laurent was head of the country, I was in a position to see that he gave the best of himself, that he led the country and acted according to what he thought was best. Naturally, like all political men, he did not have unanimous approval from all Canadians in everything, but the fact remains that the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent played a very important role in the history of Canada. I join all my colleagues in this House to wish him many more years of happiness.

Mr. Speaker: I shall be happy to convey the good wishes and congratulations of this House to the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, former Prime Minister of Canada.

[English]

* * *
PRIVILEGE

Mr. Speaker: I should bring to the attention of hon. members that the Chair has received notices of a number

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

of questions of privilege, as required by the Standing Orders. Indeed, I think that today we have established a record in the history of parliamentary democracy in the number of such notices received. I would invite the hon. members concerned to be as brief as possible in their presentations for the guidance of the Chair. I will call on the several members who have sent notices in the order in which the notices were received. I first call on the hon. member for Skeena.

MR. HOWARD—WORDS USED BY PRIME MINISTER IN REFERRING TO MEMBER

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the question of privilege I raise relates to a situation that occurred in the House yesterday and is reported in *Hansard* on page 826, following a point of order I had raised. Following that point of order there was a comment by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). To put it in its context I think I should read the comment:

It may be the hon. member—

In that instance referring to me, I believe.

—was part of the riff-raff outside the hall when I was talking inside. He perhaps does not know—

Then there were interruptions. My question of privilege is that yesterday, because of the racket and the noise from this rabble that calls itself the Conservative party—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Nielsen: You just destroyed your point of privilege.

Mr. Howard: —I was not able to hear the comments of the Prime Minister. If I had I think I might have raised a legitimate question of privilege at that time, which of course would have been the time to do it. The question of privilege I raise now is that my rights as a member were interfered with by the noise in the chamber. Based upon that, I move the following motion, seconded by my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

• (1420)

That this House calls upon the Leader of the Official Opposition to attempt to instil in his followers a sense of propriety and responsibility.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: That is a waste of the time of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members know that the duty of the Chair is simply to decide whether there is a prima facie question of privilege. Obviously, the way the matter has been put before the House would tempt me to suggest to the hon. member that there is a bit of non sequitur. I would not think, in my humble opinion, that there is a relation between the motion that the hon. member proposes and the basis of the alleged question of privilege. In the circumstances I would think there is no