

It is generally accepted that any threat to a member, attempting to influence his vote or his actions as a member, is a breach of privilege.

The issue raised by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) during question period was whether it was appropriate for the Minister of Employment and Immigration to seek advice from members of Parliament on the spending of public funds. Was it appropriate to send us a letter asking our advice on which make-work projects should be funded in our constituencies and which should not?

As the course of debate on Bill C-19 has proceeded, the kind of language used by the Minister of Employment and Immigration in addressing the members of this House has been unparliamentary in many instances. It is my view, and my question of privilege is based on this view, that the threat system implied in the attitude and the language is potentially influential of the actions of members of Parliament in terms of their decision whether to respond to the minister's request to propose certain projects to the exclusion of others.

There were two items raised yesterday in Committee of the Whole by more than one hon. member. They both referred to a situation which is important in the present atmosphere of the House. Today we are debating Bill C-30 under the provision of closure. The decision by this House to involve that provision was on the basis of lack of time for debate.

This House complied with the request of the Minister of Employment and Immigration that we move Bill C-19 into Committee of the Whole, which takes the time of the House. While we have been in Committee of the Whole, two things have occurred and these were raised yesterday. In the first instance, and on three separate occasions, the minister showed up without officials, without the kind of detailed information that is normally available to the committee. This resulted in constant repetition of questions, which eats up the time of the House.

Another phenomenon which has emerged and which was raised yesterday is that the Minister of Employment and Immigration tends to be overly lengthy in terms of his answers. The effect of that is that the government itself is eating up the time of the House.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Madam Speaker: Order. I have tried to listen to whether or not the hon. member has a question of privilege. The hon. member is not very precise as to what time the deliberations he was discussing took place and what exactly was said. The hon. member said very vaguely that something which he did not find acceptable occurred during the course of a certain debate. When he proceeded to try to be a little more precise, he was speaking of something, and even then it was not all that precise, which took place during Committee of the Whole.

I must tell the hon. member that a question of privilege flowing from deliberations that took place in Committee of the Whole have to be brought up at that committee. The hon. member was talking of deliberations flowing from Committee of the Whole. If the hon. member feels he does have a question of privilege flowing from other deliberations than those which

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occurred in Committee of the Whole, I can listen to it. Otherwise, I will have to say that he is out of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dawson: Madam Speaker, on this same question of privilege, as you pointed out, this happened in Committee of the Whole. However, I suggest the allegations made by the hon. member, that the minister has attempted to influence hon. members because some programs, which have been in place for several years, call for consultation of hon. members, are very serious allegations indeed. I would like to point out to the hon. member that if we hear long answers on Bill C-19 and if the debate has been going on for five days, it is precisely because he tries to put multiple questions without really wanting to hear any answers. I suggest, Madam Speaker, that 22 hours of debate on a bill of this importance is enough and, hopefully, the hon. member will co-operate so that this House can deal with other matters.

Madam Speaker: The parliamentary secretary is also discussing something which happened in Committee of the Whole. If he wishes to raise grievances or a question of privilege on this matter, he should also do so in Committee of the Whole.

[*English*]

Mr. Hawkes: On a question of privilege—

Madam Speaker: Order. I cannot hear the hon. member twice on the same question of privilege. Those remarks were out of order. Therefore, I cannot allow the hon. member to rise on a question of privilege regarding remarks which I have just said were out of order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

TABLING OF CONTRACT CONCERNING NEW CF-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 41(2), I would like to table, in both official languages, copy of the contract concerning the new CF-18 fighter aircraft.

[*English*]

Mr. McKinnon: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais) whether these contracts which have just been tabled are complete and contain the annexes to the contracts.