

*Privilege*

In the House today, I heard my colleague talking about the denial of access and it came to my mind that the same situation happened, so I join my colleague for Windsor West and adopt his arguments on access to the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder if I could ask the hon. member for Windsor West whether any members were stopped from approaching the building if they were walking.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I thought I had said that members who wished to approach the building on foot were able to do so, but that is exactly my point. I think that access to the building should not be based on somebody else's decision as to the means of conveyance, whether or not it should be on foot.

I respectfully submit that if members of Parliament wish to enter the building by travelling there by taxi or private car, that should be their decision, even if they may well be doing it for symbolic purposes. There was no doubt, there were all sorts of witnesses to this, that when members of Parliament initially attempted to travel from opposite the Centennial Flame to the Peace Tower, they were prevented from doing so by a road block of RCMP cars and a large number of RCMP officers. Therefore, I have decided to present this point to you.

I have made it very clear that members could go to the building on foot. I ask you to consider, Sir, whether anybody, except perhaps yourself on behalf of the House, has a right to dictate to members how they should go up the Hill, whether it should be on foot or in a taxi or in a private vehicle or whatever.

I hope I have answered your question and I respectfully submit that there is an issue of obstruction even though there is no doubt that in my case, I was able to eventually approach the building on foot.

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I am hesitant to speak on this particular point of privilege, but the point that I want to make is, first it takes me back to the work that was done with the McGrath task force and the whole question of the jurisdiction of the Speaker. One of the things that was found to be real problem is that the Speaker does not have the jurisdiction over the grounds of Parliament and that those decisions are made off of the Hill and are not in any way connected to the Speaker's office.

To me, the solution on this particular case would probably be to make a reference to the committee to ask it to look at the whole question of the Speaker's role and that of the Board of Internal Economy in terms of setting guidelines that affect the Parliament Buildings. We, Sir, would not in any way want to interfere with the rights of members opposite to take a cab from the Flame to the centre of the Peace Tower any time they choose to.

• (1520 )

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that it is an absolutely gorgeous day here in the nation's capital. Why would anybody concern himself with access when he can get out and walk the very few feet or yards that it is to the Centre Block? It also seems to me that—

**Mr. Gauthier:** How did you get here, with a chauffeur?

**Mr. Mayer:** You ask me how I get here. I make it a practice, if members are interested, to walk on a regular basis. I do not ever use a car to come up to the Centre Block. When the option is there, I use the green buses. I am sure the green buses were still able to run.

**Mr. Keyes:** No, they were not!

**Mr. Mayer:** If the green buses were not running, they were not running. I was not aware of the situation.

The point is that if you have access and a very few hundred yards to walk on a day as gorgeous as this, I think members opposite are being rather frivolous in this kind of a point of order.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Windsor West and others have addressed the Chair on a question of privilege. Basically, the fact, as explained here in the last number of minutes, is that indeed certain vehicles carrying members of Parliament were stopped at least for a while.

There was also some suggestion that members were denied access to the front door. I think that the hon. member for Windsor West mentioned that. The hon. parliamentary secretary has made a suggestion which seems to be quite sensible. There is some difficulty with respect to jurisdiction outside the walls of these buildings and under the circumstances, I am going to find that there is a prima facie case and I would hope that the appropriate motion would be put.