

Oral Questions

Health and Welfare to a question asked earlier. In view of the growing problem of cancer throughout Canada, in view of the fact that 30,000 new cases of cancer are predicted in Ontario alone this coming year, and since the government only allots \$250,000 to cancer research, is the minister considering increasing the grant the federal government gives for cancer research?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the hon. member is not well informed. The amount of \$250,000 he alludes to is a direct subsidy paid the National Cancer Institute, but that sum represents only a small part of the amounts assigned by the government to cancer research. The premise of the question being erroneous, the rest of it therefore does not apply.

[English]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I rise with considerable diffidence because of events that have taken place in the last 24 hours and, in particular, speeches and observations made in the other place concerning an order made by Your Honour refusing to accept a bill which was initiated in the other place on the ground that it dealt with the expenditure of money. Your Honour has no protection. You are unable to speak for yourself. I have been here for a long while, and this is the first time that anything like this has taken place to my knowledge, that a decision made by Mr. Speaker concerning a matter that falls entirely within his jurisdiction and rights has been dealt with in the other place.

Frankly I do not have a solution to the problem. I have not had your consent to bring it up, although I mentioned a moment ago that I intended to do so and you gave no indication as to your attitude. However, I feel that we in this chamber, knowing the contribution you have made, the fairness and the wisdom with which you have presided over this House, would want to tell you that this House stands behind you in your decision.

● (1210)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is very easy to attack when the subject of attack cannot answer. The reception given to my remark indicates that you know where this House stands, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: On this happy note, perhaps the Chair would be allowed to call orders of the day. Before calling orders of the day, however, I gather we have an interesting point of order to discuss which may take a while.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on question of privilege. It is one that has been raised by several other members on this side of the House. I seriously submit it is a matter affecting the privileges of the members of this House in that it concerns the inviting of members to events of national importance which are taking place within their own ridings. It concerns not only the Canada summer games but the forthcoming visits of the Queen to Canada.

[Mr. Symes.]

Does the government intend to deny to the sitting members of parliament for those constituencies that the Queen will visit an invitation to sit on the platform at the ceremonies? If so, it will be a direct insult to the people who live in those constituencies.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, I can understand the reluctance of the Liberals to invite members of parties other than their own to attend such ceremonies, particularly in view of their shaky position in the province of British Columbia—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is rising on a suggested question of privilege which has been brought to the attention of the House previously. When the hon. member referred to this matter yesterday I suggested that he should give notice of his intention to raise it and he sent a note to the effect that he would do so later that day. Now, the next day, he rises on the same question.

I certainly have no intention of depriving the hon. member of his right to indicate to the House why he thinks there is a question of privilege and what motion he proposes for the consideration of the House at this time or later, but it seems to me that basically what the hon. member has, and others who have spoken in respect of the same problem, is more a grievance than a question of parliamentary privilege. I would doubt that we should have further debate or discussion of the matter. The hon. member may give these considerations some thought as he brings his remarks to a close.

Mr. Leggatt: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I might say that I did rise yesterday but unfortunately, because of the pressure of business, I was not recognized. I will draw my remarks to a close by saying that I do not raise this subject facetiously. I seriously submit that it is a question of the privileges of members of parliament to be invited properly. I do not know whether this is an appropriate matter on which there should be a ruling, but I certainly think it is a matter that the government should reconsider in the future.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

On the order:

That the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, presented to the House on May 24, 1973, be concurred in—Mr. Orlikow.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move again, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):