

when it refers to my constituency; more especially am I entitled to it when I have requested it in writing.

In the past several months we have heard from the Prime Minister and the Postmaster General a great many hollow words about the ending of patronage and undue partisanship. It is evident from the facts of the case I have stated that the minister is allowing his department to be used as a tool for a propaganda campaign by the Liberal party rather than as a public service—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McGrath:—in the operation of which all hon. members of this house have a legitimate interest.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, on the same question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member had given me notice of his proposed question of privilege. It is the duty of the Chair, after having heard the statement by the hon. member, to determine whether there is a prima facie case of privilege and whether he should be allowed to make a motion for further action by the house based on the question he has raised.

No such motion was advanced. In any event I doubt very much whether there is more than a grievance, legitimate or otherwise. I doubt very much whether it is the type of grievance which should be considered by the house as a proper question of privilege, and I would have to rule along those lines. This ruling having been made, I suggest to hon. members that there should be no further debate on the question but rather that I should be allowed to call the next hon. member who has a question of privilege.

Mr. Carter: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I am speaking to the same question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member resume his seat, please? I just made a ruling that there is no question of privilege; therefore there cannot be further discussion of the matter. I am sure the hon. member will want to accept the ruling of the Chair at this point.

Insufficient Staff for Committee Work

[Translation]

INSUFFICIENT STAFF AND FACILITIES FOR COMMITTEE WORK

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a question of privilege which concerns all hon. members in this house, not only the French-speaking members.

On several occasions since the beginning of this session, I have noticed the lack of interest shown about the committees with regard to the simultaneous translation and the translation of the proceedings into French. A quick inquiry showed me that there were not enough translators and interpreters available to meet at the same time the needs of the House of Commons, the Senate and the committees.

Again this morning, and that is the last straw, when the committee on external affairs and national defence met in camera to prepare its second report, the only interpreter in attendance could not do his work properly because the sound system was not working well.

Mr. Speaker, I am by no means blaming the interpretation service which does a very good job; I merely say that they are too few to meet the requirements of this parliament.

Consequently, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Tétrault), that the house adjourn the business of the committees as long as an adequate number of people has not been hired to ensure the efficient operation of the committees.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I thank the hon. member for having given me, as required by the standing orders, notice of his question of privilege, which gave me time to start inquiring into his grievance. I think the member is right in complaining about the situation to which he refers in his motion and in rising on the question of privilege.

I would ask him to wait a few days to give me the opportunity to study the situation a little more closely and then I may be in a position to make a statement in the house or, if it is satisfactory, directly to the hon. member, in order to improve the situation about which he rightly complains.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS— FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull) presented the first report of the standing committee on health, welfare and social affairs and moved by leave that the report be concurred in.