

interest would the Deputy Prime Minister tell us to what doubt the Prime Minister was referring?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. gentleman was watching. However, I carefully watched that press conference throughout. I heard no such words used by the Prime Minister. Since that time I have had the opportunity of going over the transcript very briefly. I have seen no such words attributed to the Prime Minister in the written copy.

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PRIVILEGE

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) has sent me a letter outlining a desire to raise a question of privilege arising out of yesterday's question of privilege. I cannot allow that. She knows that yesterday I invited her, if she wished, to submit further precedents to me. She may do that, in writing, if she wishes.

I must say that I was ready to rule on the question. Since she has not sent me a further letter I am prepared to wait one more day, if she wishes to submit precedents to me.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question of privilege can be raised only once. It cannot be raised a second day.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member was responding to Your Honour's request to provide precedents. She is prepared to provide them orally on the floor of the House of Commons. If Your Honour would prefer to have them submitted—

Mr. Speaker: I will accept that this is a misunderstanding.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member would be placing the Chair in a position of creating a precedent whereby a question of privilege could be raised one day after another. The Chair cannot allow that. The Hon. Member has misunderstood what I was saying yesterday, perhaps it is my fault, and that is fine. What I meant is that if the Hon. Member has anything more to submit to me, then she should do so. I invite her to do so. However, since the Hon. Member is an experienced Member of two Houses she should know that that should be submitted to the Speaker.

Committee Reports

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to the following fourteen petitions: 331-52, 331-53, 331-79, 331-87, 331-119, 331-123, 331-125, 331-126, 331-129, 331-140, 331-142, 331-166, 331-183 and 331-184.

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INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF CANADIAN DELEGATION TO SEVENTY-FIFTH INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN MEXICO

Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report of the official parliamentary delegation which represented Canada at the 75th Interparliamentary Conference held in Mexico City from April 7 to 12, 1986.

I would like to emphasize the major role played by the Canadian delegation in connection with a unanimous resolution by conference members on international terrorism.

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[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

PRESENTATION OF TENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the tenth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Pursuant to Standing Order 99(2) the committee requests a government response to the recommendation in paragraph 15(b).

This report addresses a number of concerns relating to the Public Service Commission. First, the staffing system in the Public Service is cumbersome. The average time to fill a staff vacancy ranges from 136 days to 160 days. This can be reduced significantly while maintaining employees' rights of appeal.

Second, the monitoring of staffing activities delegated to government departments, such as affirmative action programs, is inadequate.