

Privilege—Mr. S. J. Robinson

will look into the matter and I thank the hon. member for raising it.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, on the same point, to indicate that it is not an isolated instance—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has another point, he can give me notice.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): It is the same point.

Madam Speaker: I am sure the hon. member was not in the same car. If he has another incident he can give me notice of it and I will deal with it in due course.

MR. ROBINSON (BURNABY)—REPORTED LEAKING OF REPORT TO NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question of privilege is not quite as serious a matter of state as that of the hon. member who spoke previously. I should say that I would gladly lend him my bike if he would like to borrow it in order to avoid the complexities he encountered.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Keep your composites.

Mr. Nowlan: I have a bike.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): My question of privilege arises from certain remarks made by the hon. member for Durham-Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence) in connection with the recent termination of Mr. Bertrand, a matter which has been raised in this House. Unfortunately, certain allegations were made with respect to Mr. Bertrand having—and I quote from a report in this morning's *Globe and Mail*:

—leaked a report to the New Democratic Party after taking umbrage at the way former Conservative Justice Minister Jacques Flynn dealt with his recommendations on a matter.

As the hon. member well knows, Mr. Bertrand is not in a position to defend himself from this kind of accusation.

As the member who originally raised the suggestion of collusion on the part of a number of Conservative cabinet ministers, I should like to say that this is a total fabrication. In no way did Mr. Bertrand, either directly or indirectly, leak any kind of report relating to the very serious allegations of wrongdoing on the part of the government of the day.

I call upon the former minister to withdraw any suggestion of impropriety on the part of Mr. Bertrand at that particular time. As the former minister well knows, Mr. Bertrand is not in a position to answer for himself.

Madam Speaker: This is obviously not a question of privilege involving the hon. member. He wanted to make a point about what was said in the House. The point is well taken but it is not a question of privilege.

Mr. Lawrence: May I speak? I shall be very brief.

Madam Speaker: I am sorry, I have now ruled that it was not a question of privilege. If I had seen the hon. member rise

before, I would gladly have heard him. As he knows, I am under an obligation not to hear any comments after I have ruled, and therefore I am afraid I cannot hear him.

Mr. Lawrence: Madam Speaker, I certainly realize and recognize that it was not a question of privilege, as you did too. Not only was it not a question of privilege but it was a frivolous waste of the time of the House. The hon. member already knows that the quotations ascribed to me were absolutely incorrect.

Madam Speaker: The point is well made.

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

ACCESS TO STAIRCASE BY MEMBER

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, I should like to bring to your attention that yesterday I attempted to go down one of the staircases after I had escorted some people to the gallery. As I attempted to go down the stairs, it was obvious that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was entering the building because one of the plain clothes security people put his arm out in front of me to stop me from going down the stairs. I had to push his hand down. I was not stopped but the attempt was made to stop me from using the same staircase as the Prime Minister at the same time. I should like to add this incident to the question of privilege raised by my hon. friend.

Madam Speaker: The point is well taken.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,343, 1,356, 1,357, 1,358, 1,359, 1,362, 1,366, 1,369 and 2,391.

[Text]

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

Question No. 1,343—**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):**

1. Did the Minister of Transport head a fund-raising drive in the Public Service on behalf of the University of Ottawa?

2. Were public servants from various departments asked to take part in such a drive and, if so (a) which (i) departments (ii) employees were involved (b) were they given time-off from their regular duties and, if so (i) how many employees were involved (ii) what was the total amount of time that they contributed to the project (iii) what was the total cost to the taxpayer of the time contributed?