

freedom from arrest in certain very limited circumstances; exemption from court duty as a witness or as a juror; protection against undue influence, and reflection on Members.

There are also the collective privileges of the House dealing with the control of its proceedings and publications; the calling and protection of witnesses; reflections and indignities affecting the House as a body or as an institution; the right to set up its own rules, and the traditional privileges claimed by the Speaker on behalf of the House at the opening of Parliament."

I stress the essence of the definition of privilege itself so that honourable Members will realize that it is only in very extreme circumstances that there can come to the House a legitimate case of privilege on the basis of the real and accepted and traditional definition of parliamentary privilege.

The question has often been raised whether parliamentary privilege imposes on Ministers an obligation to deliver ministerial statements and to make announcements and communications to the public through the House of Commons or to make these announcements or statements in the House rather than outside the Chamber. The question has been asked whether honourable Members are entitled, as part of their parliamentary privilege, to receive such information ahead of the general public. I can find no precedent to justify this suggestion. Honourable Members will remember that there was an interesting and somewhat protracted debate on a question of privilege raised in the last session by the honourable Member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams). The arguments which were advanced at the time were studied closely and the precedents were discussed in a ruling of the Chair reported at page 869 of *Votes and Proceedings* of March 31, 1969. The precedents which were quoted at that time are in my view applicable to the circumstances outlined by the honourable Member for Hillsborough. There may be, in such circumstances, a question of propriety or a question of courtesy. There may be a grievance; but in my view there cannot be a question of privilege. In the circumstances I regret that I cannot put the honourable Member's motion to the House.

By unanimous consent on motion of Mr. MacEachen, seconded by Mr. Pepin, it was ordered,—That the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs be empowered to consider the present level of interest rates in Canada and their relation both to rates in other countries and to economic conditions in Canada and elsewhere;

And that the evidence adduced by the Committee in its study of the aforementioned matter during the First Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament be referred to the Committee.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Mr. SPEAKER: The House will note that on today's Order Paper there is listed a great number of Public Bills for introduction by Private Members.

At this time it would be difficult for the Chair to review the provisions of each of those bills. May I therefore suggest to the House that we adopt the procedure which was agreed upon by the House in several recent sessions; namely, that we proceed to the introduction and first reading of those bills, so that each may be scrutinized between now and the time appointed for its