

MR. NYSTROM—ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEFEATED LIBERAL  
CANDIDATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF LOCAL INITIATIVES  
PROJECTS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have given notice under provisions of Standing Order 17(2) to pursue a matter of privilege that I feel infringes upon my rights as a Member of Parliament as well as those of all members of the House.

It was brought to my attention this morning that the former candidate for the Liberal party in the October 30 election in the constituency of Yorkton-Melville has notified some successful applicants for local initiatives projects that their applications have been approved before they were officially notified by officials of the local initiatives program.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** The same old gang over there.

**Mr. Hees:** Pork barrel politics!

**Mr. Nystrom:** I have also been informed, Mr. Speaker, that this practice has been carried on in some other constituencies which I do not think I should name at this time.

I genuinely feel that this sort of activity infringes upon the rights of all members of the House regardless of political party. Programs such as the local initiatives program are designed with the taxpayers' money to provide jobs and ought not to become a private political vehicle for defeated Liberal candidates no matter how desperate they may feel.

If Your Honour finds that I have a legitimate question of privilege I would move that the subject matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville has also forwarded the notice required by Standing Order 17. This has given the Chair an opportunity to ponder this situation and to be prepared to give an opinion to the House which I hope will be acceptable.

The hon. member suggests in his notice, as well as the remarks he has just placed on record, that certain announcements of certain government projects are a breach of parliamentary privilege. The definition of parliamentary privilege found in Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice has often been quoted in the House. To paraphrase the citation, the particular privileges of the Commons are the sum of the fundamental rights of the House and of its individual members as against the prerogatives of the Crown and the authority of the courts. In other words, parliamentary privilege is what places members of the House in a special category and gives them special rights so as to exercise freely their responsibilities in the Commons.

I doubt that the special status granted by parliamentary privilege can be extended to cover the situation of which the hon. member complains. Members know the distinction between privilege and grievance. An hon. member may have a very legitimate complaint or grievance about certain actions of the government, of members of the

*Privilege*

public service, of the press or of individual citizens. This cannot always be deemed to constitute a breach of parliamentary privilege. In this instance I would find that while the hon. member may have a grievance I cannot conclude that there is a legitimate prima facie case of privilege. In the circumstances, I would not think that the hon. member would expect the Chair to put the motion and have a debate on whether this matter should be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

• (1420)

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PENITENTIARIES**

KINGSTON—TABLING OF REPORT ON DISTURBANCES IN  
APRIL, 1971

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table in both official languages copies of the report of the commission of inquiry into the disturbances at Kingston Penitentiary during the month of April, 1971, commonly referred to as the Swackhamer report.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE**

MEASURES TO RESOLVE FEED GRAIN PROBLEM—  
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the terms of Standing Order 43 to propose a motion on a matter that deserves immediate attention.

In view of the growing concern of agricultural producers in eastern Canada about the government's slowness in introducing legislation leading to a fair solution of the feed grain question, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin):

That the government take immediate steps to insure that producers in eastern Canada may at all times buy feed grain at the same prices as western producers, and that the Canadian Wheat Board be placed under the Minister of Agriculture's jurisdiction.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Bellechasse. This motion is put forward under the terms of Standing Order 43 and requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion cannot be put, since there is not unanimous consent.