

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT
OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walker-ville): Mr. Speaker, if the house gives unanimous consent I move for Mr. Laflamme, seconded by Mr. Forest:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections be now concurred in.

[Translation]

Mr. Gustave Blouin (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, now that the report of the standing committee on privileges and elections has been tabled in the house and that the moment of truth has come, I am indeed very happy of the evidence given before the standing committee of privileges and elections and of the report resulting from it. That report clearly indicates that the charges laid against me by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) on December 10 last, and reported on page 3734 of the official report of the Debates, were false and unfounded.

Those most serious charges—

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. member for St. John's East, on a question of privilege.

[English]

The hon. member for St. John's East on a point of privilege.

Mr. McGrath: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member but I wish to state that at no time did I make a charge against him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): You are weasel-ing out now.

[Translation]

Mr. Blouin: Mr. Speaker, those most serious charges reflected not only on my personal integrity but also on my honour as a member of parliament. We can appreciate the seriousness of those charges if we read the remarks made by several other members, following the charges laid by the hon. member for St. John's East.

Privileges and Elections

The hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) said, and I quote:

The present situation constitutes a dictatorial act that is dangerous to democracy and will destroy democracy.

The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert)—that great specialist, anxious to ensure that the speaker would not make light of his remarks said, and I quote:

—there has been a deliberate omission of a resolution carried in the committee.

Would you please take note of this, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis)—I am sorry he is not here at the moment—that great defender of human rights, took upon himself the right to go still further in his accusations of dishonesty against me.

Mr. Speaker, those accusations have been made in this house. A thorough enquiry has just been made in that respect which shows clearly that those accusations were untrue and dishonest.

Did the hon. members who participated in the debate on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) give any thought, in acting as they did, to the tremendous wrong they could do to me and to the reputation of this house? To say the least, they acted in a shameful and irresponsible way.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Blouin: They were perfectly aware, Mr. Speaker, that such dishonest statements would be spread by the whole Canadian press under big headlines.

The unfortunate thing about all this is that the present debate will not be mentioned in the newspapers, let alone come under big headlines. After all, there is nothing shameful or sensational in the present discussions and the reputation of an ordinary member is of little importance to some journalists. So, I ask of those who still have some sense of honour to make good for the wrong they have done to me by using in their newspapers as much space to publish the true facts about this matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Blouin: Mr. Speaker, an attack on the honour of this house was made for political and party purposes. I am anxious to see what the members who made such accusations will do to make good for the wrong they have done to me.