

ing. Students are crowded into very inadequate suites or are sleeping in cars. Yet our federal and provincial governments are doing nothing about this. In our downtown area thousands of people are sleeping in terrible rooming houses and hotels. No public housing is being built and very little social housing is being funded. The housing crisis is going to be just as bad in Victoria, Calgary, Toronto and St. John's, Newfoundland. It will get worse, because this government refuses to work positively with the provinces to find joint solutions.

What Canada needs is a comprehensive housing program targeted to the needs of people whose earnings are under \$30,000. Perhaps we should enshrine in the constitution the right of every Canadian to decent, affordable accommodation which costs no more than 25 per cent of family income.

The budget should have included an industrial strategy with emphasis on housing investment for the future. It should have included mortgage assistance payments plans. It should have included far more for social housing.

We know this country faces a very serious deficit and that we must invest wisely for the future. Surely an investment which would contribute to adequate housing for our population in the ways I have outlined, one which would strengthen families and communities, should be a high priority for any federal government. What better way to unite east and west and north and south in this great country than to ensure equality for all Canadians?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, in this first budget of the new Liberal government I believe Canadians have been presented with a solid and comprehensive foundation for meeting the central challenges of economic performance.

**Mr. Deans:** How can you say that without choking, you hypocrite?

**Mr. Gray:** What are these challenges? They involve the need to bring about strong increases in the growth of output, increased employment, improved productivity performance and a reduction in the rate of inflation. These are the economic challenges facing us as we enter the 1980s.

**Mr. Deans:** You have never lived up to a promise in your life.

**Mr. Gray:** In addressing them the budget makes a strong beginning toward implementing the government's major themes of industrial development policy which were enunciated by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) during the recent election. I speak in particular of the themes of building industrial capacity on our resource base, strengthening Canada's research and technological capacity and encouraging independent Canadian-owned enterprise.

*Privilege—Mr. Knowles*

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### PRIVILEGE

MR. KNOWLES—BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize for interrupting the minister, but I think the House is expecting me to make a ruling and, with the permission of the House, I would like to proceed with it now.

We had this afternoon an interesting debate on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). Many hon. members contributed to that debate, and I want to thank them for their contributions.

It appears to me that the issue the House expects me to decide is not whether the privileges of the House have been breached or whether a contempt has been committed but whether a committee, in this case the special joint committee on the constitutional resolution, has the power to authorize the televising of its proceedings. On the one hand, it was argued that I had already ruled on this matter when I replied in August to the chairman of the special committee on the handicapped and the disabled to the effect that only the House could authorize the televising of committee proceedings. On the other hand, it was pointed out that my letter simply expressed an opinion and did not make a definite ruling.

At the conclusion of debate I expressed myself to the effect that I had given an opinion to the chairman on the basis of his specific request which involved, among other things, the taping of committee proceedings for distribution to cable outlets. I do not feel, therefore, that I have actually ruled on the question of the power of the committee to authorize the televising of its proceedings, which seems to me to be the point at issue now.

This matter has been raised in the House on a number of occasions, but until now it has never come before the Chair for a decision. Even now it has come indirectly, but I think the House expects me to rule. I shall do so, but I shall immediately set aside the question of privilege.

The basis of my ruling must be the original resolution of the House respecting the introduction of television, which reads as follows:

That this House approves the radio and television broadcasting of its proceedings and of the proceedings of its committee on the basis of principles similar to those that govern the publication of the printed official reports of debates; and

That a special committee, consisting of Mr. Speaker and seven other members to be named at a later date, be appointed to supervise the implementation of this resolution.

Obviously, the House has approved the televising of proceedings in the House and in committees. Just as obviously, the House has adopted the principle that the implementation of this proposal be supervised by a special committee. A special committee was established and made a number of reports to the House including a report to the following effect, and I quote: