

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Out, out.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Your attention has been drawn to the presence of certain strangers in the gallery.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I wonder, therefore, whether Your Honour would consider your duty under standing order 13, which reads:

If any member takes notice that strangers are present, Mr. Speaker, or the chairman (as the case may be), shall forthwith put the question that strangers be ordered to withdraw, without permitting any debate or amendment; provided that Mr. Speaker, or the chairman, may, whenever he thinks proper, order the withdrawal of strangers.

This has been brought to your attention.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre will realize that this is not the motion or the point of order raised by the hon. member. The hon. member referred to the fact that notes were being taken. He assumes that a certain type of notes are being taken. Of course the Chair has no information as to what is being done.

I think I should bring to the attention of hon. members that since last year, there having been an overflow of officials in the official gallery—and this has been the case for some time—following negotiations with the Chair by members of the press gallery, it was agreed that the press gallery would be kept exclusively for members of the press and that part of the diplomatic gallery, that is the part to the west, would be assigned to the overflow of members in the official gallery. This is why officials are using that particular gallery.

As hon. members know it has been the practice for officials in the official gallery to have the right to take notes. This point which was raised by the hon. member, as I understand it, is not a point of order. If the hon. member points to the strangers in the gallery then this is a different matter, and I have to give effect to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. Perhaps someone wants to make that proposal.

Mr. Woolliams: Thank you very much for clearing up this matter, Mr. Speaker. I should have thought the house leader would

Inquiries of the Ministry

also clear it up. I have seen these two, and they are smiling again now—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: They are sitting there by the translator and I know exactly—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Woolliams: I can stand and wait for silence. I know exactly what they are doing. They are taking the attendance. I have seen them using the list of the House of Commons, looking down and marking off the names. Let them stand and deny that. I should like the protective staff now to examine these men and find what these documents contain. If they are doing exactly what I suggest in my point of order and taking the attendance, then this is against the rules of this house. This is another part of this dictatorship on the part of this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Woolliams: The house leader is the dictator, and he is showing that now by using these strongarm men.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I must say I am surprised that the hon. member is so sensitive about the question of attendance. I am sure all of us would greatly miss him if he were not in the house. It does not seem to me he has indicated any particular rule which is being violated. As Your Honour has indicated, it is the custom for officials to have the right to make notes. It seems to me it is of little relevance what the subject matter of those notes is.

Some hon. Members: Oh, Oh.

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please? The President of the Privy Council I understand is speaking to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, and I think perhaps I should be given the opportunity to hear him out.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Thank you, Mr. Speaker; and it seems—

An hon. Member: Didn't you have your shower this morning?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I did indeed, and I suppose the hon. member is disappointed because I did not invite him. Perhaps I could make it clear to the hon. member and the Leader of the Opposition that I do not