

*Privilege—Mr. Angus*

earliest opportunity after I have been able to review the record of yesterday's proceedings.

The record clearly indicates that the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap, during Question Period yesterday, twice accused the Government side of the House of “kickbacks” in relation to the funding of a tourism project in Edmonton. I would like to quote very briefly from page 10436 of *Hansard*:

MR. RIIS: A \$5 million kickback.

Later on:

MR. RIIS: Five million dollar kickback.

Immediately after Question Period, and in response to a question of privilege raised by my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap denied he had intended to accuse the Deputy Prime Minister of taking a kickback. However, at no time did he deny making the statement and at no time did he withdraw. Rather, and specifically, he withdrew any suggestion that he intended to refer to the Deputy Prime Minister. I would like to quote from page NN-2 of the “blues” in which Mr. Riis is reported as having said:

—I cannot imagine any scenario where I would ever accuse the Hon. Member of kickbacks. I did not in the past. I did not today. If there is any suggestion that I did, I want to completely withdraw it. I want to make it completely clear that I have the most respect for the hon. gentleman.

He was very specific in making his references relate to the Deputy Prime Minister.

In dealing with the question of privilege raised by the Deputy Prime Minister you, Mr. Speaker, also limited it to the issue of whether or not the Deputy Prime Minister had been the focus of the accusation. You said, and I quote from page LL-11 of the “blues”:

It often depends on exactly how it was put and in what context. The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap said that he did not in any way mean to imply that the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister took a kickback—

In other words, it was recognized by yourself, Sir, as it had been made clear in the statement by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap, that his reference was exclusively, in his response to the question of privilege, to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The record shows unequivocally that twice the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap accused someone on the government side of taking kickbacks. He says he did not mean the Deputy Prime Minister. He must then have been referring to another Minister from Alberta, to all Ministers on the government side or, indeed, to a Member of Parliament of this House. That, Sir, is a very serious allegation, an allegation made not casually but made twice, an allegation of criminal activity which remains on the record until it is unconditionally withdrawn by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap.

I would ask the Hon. Member to unconditionally withdraw his allegations of kickbacks so that the record is set straight.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question. I certainly do that. I withdraw any accusation, any implication that that term might suggest for either the Deputy Prime Minister or any other Member of Cabinet.

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**PRIVILEGE****ALLEGED IMPROPER ACQUISITION OF LETTER**

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to suggest that the privilege of all Members of this House has been infringed upon. During statements by Members today the Hon. Member for the Battlefords—Meadow Lake (Mr. Gormley) made reference to a letter, supposedly received today by himself, written by the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp). I understand that letter expressed my colleague's concern regarding the Canada-U.S. trade agreement. However, that is not the issue.

That letter was sent to printing last Friday. It was returned to my colleague's office this Monday afternoon. Those letters remain in that office. Those letters have not been mailed out to the constituents to whom they are ultimately to go.

I believe we should be able to utilize the services with which your office provides us, Mr. Speaker, according to the rules of the House, having the knowledge that whatever we send to printing, whatever goes from printing to our offices, and whatever remains in our offices, is in fact secure. If we cannot have faith in that, then our ability to function as Members of Parliament is reduced accordingly.

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to investigate the process, to inquire of the Hon. Member the manner in which the letter was received in order to determine whether or not there has been a breach of privilege which affects not only the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon in this particular instance, but all Hon. Members. If we cannot feel secure in using the printing services, then we cannot function as Members of Parliament.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my honourable friend's point of view. I would have to say his “point of view” because it would seem to me if there is any breach of privilege, it should be brought by the Hon. Member who alleges the breach affected him or her.

**Mr. Keeper:** It affects us all.

**Mr. Lewis:** This is all hearsay.

**Mr. Manly:** You heard the Member opposite.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have no difficulty with the Hon. Member who claims the letter came out of his office raising a question of