

Inquiries of the Ministry

there is an appropriate motion to take certain action, then the Chair will receive the motion for presentation to the house.

Mr. Langlois: I wonder if the Prime Minister is trying to save paper, or if he actually wants to see justice done.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is no question at all of avoidance of the matter now. If the hon. member has a motion to make or if any other hon. member has a motion to make in this regard, such a motion will now be made or the matter will be dropped. Is there a motion?

Mr. Langlois: I propose that the Clerk of the House read the article, and I propose that it be sent to the committee on elections and privileges for further report and observation.

(Translation):

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): May I suggest to my colleague who has just asked that the articles be read, to reconsider his request and accept the suggestion made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), to leave it to the Speaker of the house to interpret the proposal.

As for the question of privilege under consideration, if we read into the official report the articles in question, we would also have to put the denial made by all members of the delegation to NATO and published in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, so that the good name of our delegates would not be unduly tarnished.

Mr. Speaker: It was suggested at first that this article be referred to the committee on privileges and elections, but if this matter is taken up in the house for discussion of the motion introduced by the hon. member for Megantic, seconded by the hon. member for Trinity, if a written motion is tabled, it will be taken in consideration. Is there a written motion?

Mr. Langlois: Mr. Speaker, I handed a copy of the motion to one of the pages asking him to table it, and I think he did.

There seems to be some confusion about the written motion. Therefore, I shall redraft it and table it, or have the translation division send it to you. I did hand it to a page asking him to take it to the Clerk of the house.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is moved by the hon. member for Megantic, seconded by the hon. member for Trinity, that the article by Mr. Jean Charpentier entitled:

The NATO Parliamentarians' Conference—

To be delegated to international conferences is often just a reward for well behaved members.

—an article which appeared in *La Presse* on Tuesday, November 27, 1962, as well as on Mr. Cormier's article entitled:

Parliamentary delinquency

—which appeared also in *La Presse* on November 28, 1962, be referred to the standing committee on privileges and elections for study and report.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Langlois: I can spare the house the reading of the article on the understanding that the motion stands.

(Text):

BREAD

INQUIRY AS TO ACTION RESPECTING PRICE INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, and I regret that I did not have the opportunity of giving him advance notice. In the light of the radio report in the C.B.C. news broadcast this morning, announcing a one cent increase in bread prices, has the government any proposals to offset this price raise with all its implications?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman being a member of the legal profession, as I understand—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, I thought he was. Then I would say to the hon. gentleman there are limitations within which action can be taken in this regard, covered by the Combines Investigation Act. Means are available for action to be taken, but apart from saying that I am not suggesting that on the basis of his question he has established anything in the nature of a prima facie case.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): As a supplementary question, having regard to the statement made by the Prime Minister at Magog during the campaign which is as follows:

Fast, efficient, and drastic action will be taken against those using devaluation to up prices of goods

—what action does the Prime Minister intend to take?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not regard the question as a supplementary question. It is in the nature of provoking an argument, and certainly the answer will be argumentative. Therefore it is contrary to standing order 39.