

*Transport and Communications*

entirely prior to my election. There is therefore a divergence from the ordinary procedure, a divergence entirely attributable to my becoming a member of parliament. This divergence of treatment, therefore, constitutes a disability, indeed a penalization, placed upon a member of the House of Commons for becoming a member.

I suggest, with respect, that I have established a prima facie case of privilege, and I am prepared to make a motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** I wonder whether any hon. member would like to offer comments for the guidance of the Chair on the question of privilege that has been raised by the hon. member?

**Some hon. Members:** Pay!

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think the remedy suggested by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is within the power of the Chair.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I didn't say a word!

**Mr. Speaker:** I have listened very carefully to the hon. member for York-Simcoe who had given me advance notice of the question of privilege, thus affording the Chair an opportunity to study the matter. This, of course, is the intention and purpose of the standing order that provides for advance notice of questions of privilege.

At first blush I would incline to the view that it is the hon. member's rights as a former civil servant which are at issue. He has, perhaps, a grievance against the government in that capacity rather than in his capacity as a member of parliament. On the other hand, hon. members know that the house has always exercised great care in attempting to protect the rights and privileges of all its members. Since there is some doubt about the interpretation of the precedents in this situation, I would be inclined to resolve that doubt in favour of the hon. member.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Roberts:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Anderson):

That the subject matter of my question of privilege be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Roberts.]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

**COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**

Second report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, in French and English—Mr. Gérard Duquet (Quebec East).

[English]

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration—Mr. Caccia.

[Editor's note: For text of above Reports see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

**TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

DISCUSSION UPON THE CALLING OF THE ORDER FOR A MOTION TO CONCUR IN FIFTH REPORT—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions. The hon. member for LaSalle (Mr. Lessard).

On March 25 when the notice of motion to which I have just referred standing in the name of the hon. member for LaSalle was called the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Macdonald) rose on a point of order. During the discussion of this point of order a number of hon. members took the position that the President of the Privy Council was not raising his point of order at the appropriate time in our proceedings. In particular the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) drew the attention of the Chair to citation 318, subsection (3), of Beauchesne. That citation says:

A member will not be permitted in presenting a report to make any remarks on the subject-matter; he can only properly do so on a motion in reference to the report.

The hon. member said that if this limitation is placed on an hon. member who has the moving of the motion in his care, it applies as well to other hon. members.

The question I have to decide therefore is whether or not the point of order raised by the President of the Privy Council came too early in our proceedings; in other words, whether or not the motion should have been put first and then the question as to the regularity of the report brought into issue by the house leader.

It should be recalled that hon. members who took part in the discussion on the point of order, more particularly the hon. member