

*Privilege—Mr. Frith*

appear before the committee as he and his officials have done so far? Will he finally summon the courage to come before the committee and defend his Neanderthal policies on women and minorities in the Canadian Armed Forces?

● (1500)

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered that question a moment ago when I said that I would welcome an opportunity to discuss equality rights.

**Mr. Robinson:** Rescind the order.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Hon. Member has asked me to rescind something which I have not seen. Surely even his reason, as limited as it might be, would compel him to the conclusion that I certainly would not be expected to be *au fait* with every single order which is issued in an armed forces which are 83,000 strong. If he will make the document which he is waving about available to me, I will certainly examine it and take whatever action that I deem to be reasonable under the circumstances.

\* \* \*

## CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORT

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ROMANIA

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Parkdale-High Park (Mr. Witer) on Tuesday, May 14, 1985, meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

Order, please. I am in receipt of a notice of a question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith).

Perhaps the Hon. Member for Sudbury and I could be heard. The Hon. Member for Sudbury has a question of privilege and the Speaker would like to hear it. Could the Members of the House please allow that, particularly Members on my right.

\* \* \*

## PRIVILEGE

## CHALLENGE '85

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege as I believe that my ability as a Member of Parliament to properly service my constituents is being infringed or impeded. The question of privilege relates to a directive which was issued by the Department of Employment and Immigration concerning the Challenge '85 program.

Some three weeks ago the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) circulated to all Members of Parliament a memo which indicated that we would have free and open access to the approval process for projects under the program and the number of dollars which would go into each

riding. Since that time I have been informed by officials within the Employment Development Branch in the City of Sudbury that they had received directions from their regional headquarters which stated that the officials working for the Department had been instructed not to release information on the projects or the number of people who would be involved.

I think, Mr. Speaker, you as a Member of Parliament as well as the Speaker of the House, will realize that a number of those project sponsors are in contact on a daily basis with constituency offices wanting to know the status of the projects. Therefore, I believe that the directive which was issued by the Department of Employment and Immigration is infringing on my ability to properly service my constituents.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will instruct the Minister who is responsible for that Department to allow that information to be made available to every Member of Parliament.

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, obviously I am not aware of the specifics of the matter which has been raised by the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith). I rise only to suggest to you, Sir, that it is not a question of privilege. I believe it is a question which deals with the administration and operation of government. Therefore, on a technical basis, I suspect that it is not a question of privilege. It may be a matter on which the Hon. Member would want to have discussions with the Minister, and I am sure the Minister would be very receptive to hearing representations to determine if something should be done. Indeed, the Minister, as I understand it, was before the committee yesterday and attempted to deal with the matter at some—

**Mr. Allmand:** She thought it was a wonderful policy.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had a lecture from the Liberal Party about interrupting its Members when they are speaking. Today I cannot make myself heard, because the Liberals are trying to shout me down. They cannot have it both ways.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry. Order, please. Again, I am addressing my remarks to all Members. I previously indicated that one side was being excessively noisy. Now the other side is being excessively noisy. Is it not possible, even on a question of privilege, for back-benchers and front-benchers on all sides of the House to allow me to hear what is being said?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the truth is causing so much irritation. I am only attempting to suggest to the Hon. Member that he does not have a question of privilege within the meaning of that phrase for parliamentary purposes. I am sure the Minister will be glad to receive representations and that she will discuss the matter in the usual competent and outstanding way for which she is known across the country in the performance of her responsibilities.