

who, because of his disappointment over the results of that commission, makes such emotional statements.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Chairman, I do not profess to be an expert on the rules and I certainly do not want to get involved in a dispute of this nature between members of the committee. But I have a great deal of sympathy with you, Mr. Chairman, when you ask for advice in respect to this matter. I am wondering whether it would be acceptable to the committee that we should take this matter under advisement?

Mr. Nielsen: No.

Mr. Brewin: May I suggest that if some opportunity for thinking about this matter were given the President of the Privy Council might well review what he has said, because it seems to me his words did convey a very grave implication against the hon. member for Yukon.

If he did not intend to convey the imputation which I thought he made, then I think it would be a very useful thing if he were given a little time to ponder the matter and perhaps he would then withdraw the imputation that the hon. member for Yukon has seen in these words. I do not believe it advances the dignity and welfare of the house when accusations of that sort are banded backward and forward and the matter is made into a great personal issue. I think we can conduct the affairs of the house without that and I am wondering, because of the difficulties of the procedural points involved, whether it would not be proper for you, Mr. Chairman, to ask that the matter be reserved while you look into it.

Mr. Nielsen: No. That is completely unacceptable, Mr. Chairman.

● (2:00 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, referring to Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, I find that the house is now in a rather difficult and complicated situation, which may have serious implications and consequences and which requires much thought.

Now, I think it would be most useful, for the guidance of hon. members, to read the first paragraph of citation 128 of Beauchesne which reads as follows:

A personal attack, by one member upon another, is an offence against the house, in the person of one of its members, which, on account of the respect due from every member to the character and dignity

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of the house, as well as the importance of preserving regularity in the debates, calls for the prompt interference of the Speaker—

To make my first point, I should like to call attention on this:

—the prompt interference of the Speaker—

And not the chairman of committees.

I wonder if, rising above the question itself, one would not help the house by pointing out that this citation provides that the Speaker must interfere; consequently, the chairman should report progress, so that the Speaker could take the chair and that the discussion could continue.

This way, a solution could be arrived at; the Speaker could resume the chair, in accordance with citation 128 of Beauchesne.

[English]

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer Your Honour by way of assistance to several citations to be found in Beauchesne's fourth edition as to how this matter must be handled. First of all, it is surely clear that what has transpired is that the President of the Privy Council has made a personal attack upon the hon. member for Yukon. I think that cannot be disputed. I direct your attention to citation 128(1) to be found at page 115 of Beauchesne's fourth edition which reads:

A personal attack, by one member upon another, is an offence against the House, in the person of one of its members—

The following words of the citation are not relevant, I do not believe, but they indicate that the procedure to be followed, as I appreciate it, is for the member attacked to ask for a withdrawal. This has been done but the President of the Privy Council has declined to withdraw. On the contrary, he has repeated the ill-founded charge which constituted the personal attack.

Mr. Nielsen: I did not ask for an apology; I asked him to withdraw.

Mr. Fulton: If he refuses to withdraw he should be named. But I submit to you, sir, that this is not a matter that can be dealt with in the committee; it is one which requires to be reported immediately to the house. In that regard I refer you to citation 138(1) to be found at page 120 of the same edition which states:

The House of Commons will insist upon all offensive words being withdrawn, and upon an ample apology being made which shall satisfy both the House and the member to whom offence has been given. If the apology be refused, or if the offended member declines to express his satisfaction, the House takes immediate measures for preventing the quarrel from being pursued further—