

It is obvious that those who have spoken today dealt with arrangements which some Hon. Members do not consider satisfactory.

I would suggest an immediate meeting with the members of the committee and perhaps also with . . . This is not an order of the Chair, but only a suggestion.

As for coming to an agreement on this matter, it would be impossible for the Chair this afternoon to reconcile the views of the various Members.

I therefore regret to say that this does not constitute a matter of privilege, but it is certainly a complaint. I hope that the Hon. Members will be able to settle the matter between themselves.

I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his intervention.

[*English*]

Perhaps I can say to the Hon. Minister of State that I am trying to make it very clear that, while there is a complaint, that complaint ought to be resolved within the committee. Unless something should develop which moves the difficulty clearly into a question of privilege, I do not think the Chair can add anything more to it.

As I said, I have only suggested, it is not my place to order. Perhaps some Hon. Members could get together and see if they can resolve the matter.

● (1550)

TABLING BY MINISTER OF DOCUMENT QUOTED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, Citation 327 of Beauséjour states:

A Minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a dispatch or other state paper not before the House, unless he be prepared to lay it upon the Table.

Such an incident happened today when the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) quoted from a document.

The rules of the House, just as in a court of law, provide that the Minister is compelled to lay this document on the Table of the House. I rise to bring this to your attention and to ask that you ensure, Sir, that the document in question be tabled pursuant to the Standing Orders of the House of Commons.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, we will certainly refer to the "blues" and see whether or not the Hon. Minister referred to his notes or quoted from the document.

Mr. Boudria: He had it in his hands.

Mr. Lewis: I was not sitting beside him, as you obviously were, to see what was in his hands. We will see whether the Hon. Minister referred to his notes or in fact quoted from the text of the document. We will report back to the House.

Privilege—Mr. Nunziata

ALLEGED INTERCEPTION OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) raised a question of privilege earlier and very courteously agreed with the Chair's suggestion that the matter be put over until the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) might be able to make a statement to the House or at least add information which would be helpful to the Chair.

I understand that the Solicitor General is here today, and I thank him for his courtesy in being prepared perhaps to help the Chair on at least some of the facts surrounding the incident.

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the question of privilege raised by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) yesterday in the House. I think it is important to understand the facts in their entirety with respect to this matter.

I am advised that the inmate involved is serving life for second degree murder. At the time he was the chairman of the inmate committee, a group nominated by the inmates to deal with prison officials in the resolution of day-to-day problems.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, also to know that on August 18 of this past summer there was a serious disturbance and fire at Joyceville Institution, during which extensive damage took place. Since that time, the atmosphere at the institution has been somewhat more volatile, given some operational problems due to the physical damage that took place and which is now under repair.

Given that background I will deal with the specific point raised by the Hon. Member in my absence. It is true that on Wednesday, October 21, 1987, the MP's assistant, and not the MP, phoned to speak to the inmate. He was informed that the inmate would phone him back at the number provided.

The inmate was called up from his cell to the living unit office where such calls are normally made, and the inmate used the telephone provided. It is important to note that this telephone and office used were clearly marked with the following advisory, as per correctional service regulations. There was a sticker on the phone and a sign in the room used, stating: "All activities, including conversations and telephone communications in this area, are subject to monitoring and may be recorded". The inmate proceeded to place his call to the Member's assistant, using this phone, and a correctional officer remained in this office with him while the call was taking place. I am advised that this is the usual practice.

During the course of the conversation, the inmate made certain remarks that the officer overheard, which caused her some serious concern, namely to the effect that "something heavy" would happen at the institution if inmate demands were not met. The officer reported the remarks to the warden, and after consultation with regional headquarters of the