

*Administration of Justice*

now on, I hope the house will support Your Honour in insisting that there be no more discussion of this matter unless there is an actual motion before us.

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

**Mr. Knowles:** I hope Your Honour will allow this motion. I think the discussion on it can be very brief. Perhaps it might be voted on without any discussion at all. If it is passed, this matter will be off the floor of the house and Canada will rejoice. If it is defeated, I urge the house to support you, sir, in insisting that there be no further discussion of this question of privilege unless there is another motion based on it which is properly moved and accepted by Your Honour.

In the meantime I repeat what I said at the beginning. I think in this unusual situation we should realize we have a right to pass a motion that applies a remedy and should do our best to cope with this matter by accepting the motion and applying this remedy to this unusual situation so that we can get this whole matter off the floor of the house.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would permit me to ask him a question?

**Mr. Knowles:** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The hon. gentleman is making an appeal to the Chair to accept a motion which he considers, in the circumstances, defective? Is that the correct interpretation?

**Mr. Knowles:** I am saying that it is an unusual motion. Mr. Speaker himself has pointed out that in the 99 years of this house there has been only one kind of motion based on privilege which has been accepted. But I do not know why we should not break some new ground. We have certainly broken some new ground in the last four days.

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

**Mr. Knowles:** I also say to the Minister of Transport that if I had been drafting the motion I would not have put in it the phrase "recommend to this house for decision", but I do not think that because there is something in it I do not like or do not approve of this throws the whole motion out. I think the general idea of the motion, based on the whole question of privilege, that we seek to apply a remedy is one that merits consideration.

The only motion that Your Honour has said up to this point would be in order is a motion to refer this matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It is not a very far cry from referring the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections and referring it to a special committee that the house sets up for this particular purpose.

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak only very briefly on the point of order and then I shall make a plea to the house and especially to the government with respect to the point of order. With respect to the point of order the two branches of my remarks will be related. It is true that we have here an unusual motion, but the house is, of course, the master of its own procedure and, subject to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, the house can say that it will accept the motion even though it is not usual and would not apply in ordinary circumstances. I hope, therefore, that the house will bear with me if I suggest that this motion is very close to what could be described as a motion dealing with the business of the house, which as I understand it can be moved at any time without notice and taken under discussion at that time.

● (3:40 p.m.)

The terms of reference setting up a commission of inquiry were tabled in the house yesterday. Those terms of reference were discussed last evening. They were, therefore, dealt with in the process of the dispatch of business, if I may use that term, with respect to what was before us; they formed, in effect, the business of the house at that time. We have now introduced a motion suggesting that the matter be disposed of by reference to a select committee to be set up for that special purpose.

I am not going to press this point any further. I say, however, that there is a basis upon which the house may quite properly find that, although somewhat unusual, this is a proper motion and should be allowed to be put, by unanimous consent if necessary.

Having said that, sir, I should like to urge upon the house the reasons I trust the house will follow that course. I am not asking anyone in any part of the house to commit himself as to how he will vote on the motion, if hon. members agree to allow it to be put. I want to make that clear. All I am asking is that the house be allowed to deal with this motion. Naturally I hope it will be accepted because I think this would be the best way of