

so directing mail to a selected list, I take it, in the Province of British Columbia.

In the interest of the honour of this institution, I would urge that this matter not be considered in the narrow context but indeed be considered in the broader context. We are all trying to improve and restore confidence in this institution, and I think this would be one way in which we could move toward achieving that objective.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, I had not finished my remarks. I know I sort of interrupted myself and that you, Sir, ruled me out or cut me down. I would ask for an opportunity to be able to complete my remarks, and I will try to keep them temperate.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member will understand why the Chair moved to another Hon. Member. Would you please complete your remarks as quickly as you can.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, there was no attempt on behalf of the Members to abuse privileges blatantly. The attempt was to try to get people to involve themselves in the provincial election.

**Mr. Kaplan:** On the NDP side.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Of course, on the NDP side.

**Mr. Waddell:** I want to tell Hon. Members that I have received no feed-back from my riding, no complaints. As the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) said, I think the whole matter should be looked at in the sense that I referred to the householder of the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney) and to other stuff sent out by the Liberals in the referendum campaign and so on.

That is the work of the committee, and the committee chairman has it in his or her power to consider those things. I do not think it should be directed on this specific issue by the Chair. The matter has been vented in the House, and I would respectfully suggest that that is the remedy the Hon. Member should take.

**Mr. Brisco:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Ms. Copps:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) rising on this question of privilege?

**Ms. Copps:** I am rising on a question of privilege arising out of a statement which was made by an Hon. Member during the course of the debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the Hon. Member would permit us to deal with the question of privilege before the House and then I will hear the Hon. Member.

**Ms. Copps:** Sure.

*Privilege—Mr. Brisco*

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make a brief point as well. I think we are seeing an example of an abuse by Members of Parliament in participating in such a partisan way in a provincial election. On the other hand, I have difficulty seeing how it amounts to a breach of privileges.

If constituents agree or disagree with what their Members of Parliament have done, it may tend to bring particular Members into some disrepute and criticism in their ridings. I think they deserve to be criticized and brought into disrepute for taking the step of participating in a provincial election in the way they have.

I do not know whether the Province of British Columbia, like the Province of Ontario, has limits on campaign spending. However, I can see the implications of getting one's friends or Party supporters at the other level of Government to involve themselves in some special manner in one's election campaign in a way which is worth money but is not counted within one's campaign limit. It seems to me to be an abusive thing to do. I hope the voters of British Columbia focus on this issue and make it clear in the way they vote that they do not approve of Members of Parliament using the advantages they enjoy as Members of the House of Commons to participate in such a partisan way in an election.

I also think it is going a long way to ask the Chair or a committee of the House to read the first-class mail which Members of Parliament send out and to decide on some basis or other whether it is a violation of privileges. I want respect for Members' right to be able to put what they like in the letters which they send out so far as privileges are concerned. However, so far as the approval or disapproval of the electorate is concerned, I think this debate is very well founded, but perhaps not the point of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair feels that there has been sufficient argument on the point of privilege raised by the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) and to which the Hon. Member for Nanaimo—Alberni (Mr. Schellenberg) spoke. The Chair has been assisted by the interventions from all sides of the House. I am persuaded by the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault)—and that argument was supported by the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan)—that the Chair should not move without great care in ruling on whether or not a communication sent under the frank is a question of privilege. However, having said that, I think it is clear that there could be cases where, depending upon the content of the communication sent under the frank, it could be a question of privilege if the content worked against the right of Members to free expression and the carrying out of their obligations as Members.

● (1130)

I have had the opportunity to look carefully at the document in question. It is the view of the Chair—without at the moment commenting on the propriety of sending that particular document, and I want that clearly understood that I am not