

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: As honourable Members know, a question of privilege was raised earlier today. The Chair undertook at that time to look into the matter and make a ruling later.

The honourable Member for York South raised a question of privilege and proposed for the consideration of a standing committee of the House what he termed the discrepancies between statements made to the House by the Acting Prime Minister and the contents of a document published in a newspaper. The honourable Member referred to answers made in the House yesterday by the Acting Prime Minister to the effect that no decision had been reached by cabinet in reference to certain matters. He then argued that the existence of the document published by the newspaper conflicts with the minister's statements.

Does this constitute a question of privilege? I said earlier today that there had been no opportunity to review the precedents. This has been done in the intervening hours. A close review of the records of the House has been carried out in an attempt to find a precedent or precedents which might support the honourable Member's contention that in the stated circumstances there might be a *prima facie* case of privilege.

On the contrary, the pertinent precedents tend to establish in the main that statements made outside the House, or documents published elsewhere, ought not to be used for the purpose of questioning statements made in this Chamber by honourable Members from either side of the House. I refer for example to certain decisions of the Chair which may be found recorded in *Hansard* of February 14, 1938, at page 382, in *Hansard* of July 3, 1952, at page 4162 and in *Hansard* of December 21, 1951 at page 2346. There are many other precedents more or less on the point which might be quoted by the Chair.

Honourable Members will allow the Chair once again to refer to citation 113 of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition as follows: "A dispute arising between two Members as to allegations of facts does not fulfil the condition of parliamentary privilege."

With respect, I suggest to the honourable Member for York South that the point he has raised is much more a matter of debate than it is one of privilege. I must therefore rule that there is no *prima facie* case of privilege which would enable the Chair to put the motion proposed by the honourable Member for York South.

The House resumed consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill C-259, An Act to amend the Income Tax

Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequential upon the amendments to that Act, and further progress having been made and reported, the Committee obtained leave to consider it again at the next sitting of the House.

A Message was received from the Senate informing this House that the name of the Honourable Senator Inman had been substituted for that of the Honourable Senator Fergusson on the list of Senators serving on the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada.

(Proceedings on Adjournment Motion)

At 10.05 o'clock p.m., the question "That this House do now adjourn" was deemed to have been proposed pursuant to Standing Order 40(1);

After debate the said question was deemed to have been adopted.

Changes in Committee Membership

Notice having been filed with the Clerk of the House pursuant to Standing Order 65(4)(b), membership of Committees was amended as follows:

Messrs. Lachance and Hogarth for Messrs. Deakon and De Bané on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada.

Mr. Gibson for Mr. Laflamme on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada.

Mr. De Bané for Mr. Watson on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada.

Mr. Watson for Mr. Hogarth on the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada.

Mr. Rose for Mr. Orlikow on the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Messrs. Reid, Tolmie and Barrett for Messrs. Weatherhead, Morison and Guay (Lévis) on the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

At 10.31 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned until tomorrow at 2.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).