

*Use of Post Office Box 4430*

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** I will say it was well read and then everybody will be happy.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair would not be happy. The hon. member cannot make this suggestion and he has to agree that when an hon. member has made a statement or a speech no other hon. member has the right to suggest that it has not been prepared by himself and is not an expression of his own views and thoughts. That is why I have invited the hon. member to indicate to the Chair that my understanding of his thoughts is correct.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, as always I will be very glad to agree with your ruling and withdraw my remarks.

**Mr. Baldwin:** He could not write that well.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I am rising on the same question of privilege to say very briefly that while I do not mind getting coupons which should be sent to my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and I do not even mind getting coupons from that part of the area which is now in the constituency of Selkirk, I do object to having to answer people who live in the constituencies of Winnipeg South Centre, Winnipeg South or St. Boniface. I think those members should deal with their own coupons and I wish they could be sent to the right members and not to me.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same question of privilege. I need not mention names or name places because I think Your Honour is aware of the situation I am alluding to. Not only is there outside interference but there has been inside interference, so to speak, which has been drawn to Your Honour's attention. Not only is there interference with the mails but also with the operations in my own office. This matter, which has been brought to Your Honour's attention, could very well be tied in with any vote on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Ontario.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. As hon. members will remember, yesterday the right hon. member for Prince Albert raised as a question of privilege the fact that the box in question had been closed. Today the hon. member for Ontario has raised his question of privilege on the grounds that the box has been opened. This leaves the Chair in a box.

[Mr. Hees.]

I will search for the key to the riddle and try to give an answer. I will consider the matter very seriously. I realize this is a matter of very serious import and have wondered myself for some time whether, in one way or another, the rights and privileges of hon. members were in any way adversely affected either by the opening of the box or by the closing of the box or by the operations which are related in some way to this question. I am pleased the matter was raised earlier by the right hon. member for Prince Albert and today by the hon. member for Ontario.

I should say that I have some procedural misgivings about the way the matter was raised today by the hon. member for Ontario. We all know that one of the most important considerations to be taken into account by the Chair in determining whether there is a prima facie case of privilege is whether the matter was raised at the first opportunity. The hon. member is really complaining that this box was opened some time ago. It seems to me that, so far as all hon. members are concerned, this has been common knowledge or should have been common knowledge for some weeks now. I therefore wonder whether the matter being raised now is being raised at the first opportunity. That is an aspect of the matter that the Chair cannot overlook. With this reservation, the matter will be looked into and tomorrow perhaps or on Thursday, if the House is sitting then, the Chair will give a decision.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Don't scare us, Mr. Speaker.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### FINANCE

TABLETING OF VOLUME I OF REPORT OF AUDITOR GENERAL FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1969

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have tabled today copies in the two official languages of volume I of the Report of the Auditor General to the House of Commons for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1969.

As the House is aware, the Financial Administration Act requires that the report of the Auditor General be laid before the House on or before December 31st or, if Parliament is then not in session, within 15 days after the commencement of the next ensuing session. The Auditor General has asked me to