

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, June 20, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. HOWARD (SKEENA)—USE OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMP BY "TIME INTERNATIONAL" ON POSTCARD MAILED IN CANADA

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I desire to rise on a question of privilege of which I have given Your Honour notice. My question of privilege relates to the use of United States of America postage stamps to mail certain material within Canada.

As a prelude I think I should indicate that the Post Office Act passed by this Parliament defines what is a postage stamp. Without quoting the section, it is whatever stamp or impression is authorized by the Postmaster General. Further, the act also provides that the Postmaster General may prescribe the conditions under which mailable matter will be mailed within Canada.

I have in my hand a postcard and it is necessary for me to read the very first sentence, though no other part. It reads:

May we ask your co-operation in a special survey of *Time* subscribers?

It is signed by a Ralph P. Davidson, associate publisher of *Time International* of Canada. It is postmarked Montreal at 1 p.m. on the 18th day of June and has a Canadian post office cancellation mark on it. The stamp is a United States of America six-cent stamp.

I am sure the Postmaster General did not authorize, as is his right under the Post Office Act, use of that particular stamp as an official stamp to be used within Canada, but for *Time International* to use that stamp to mail material—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should indicate as quickly as he can how he thinks parliamentary privilege is affected. From what the hon. member has said up to now I think there is not even a remote connection between the grievance that he has and parliamentary privilege.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in order to try to argue that there is a question of privilege I thought it worth while to put forward what this Parliament has said should be the law. I think that the privileges of Parliament have been offended. The Post Office Act was passed by this Parliament. The Postmaster General is charged with authority in postal matters and, if nothing else, he has been embarrassed by the use by *Time International* of a United States stamp to mail material within Canada, quite apart from it being offensive to Canadians as a whole.

If Your Honour finds that there is a prima facie question of privilege and that the matter should be inquired

into, I should like to move, seconded by the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters):

That the question of the use of United States of America postage stamps by *Time International* of Canada to post mail within Canada be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Speaker: I have to repeat what I said a moment ago, that there is not even a remote connection between the circumstances described by the hon. member and parliamentary privilege. I will not abuse the time or the patience of hon. members by repeating what parliamentary privilege is for the guidance of hon. members. I am sure the hon. member for Skeena, who has been here for many years, knows this at least as well and probably better than I. I am sure he will not require a long speech from the Chair to be convinced there is not a prima facie case of privilege. The hon. member may have a complaint or a grievance, but I fail to see how it is related in any way to his privileges as a member of this House.

• (1410)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

LABOUR, MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION

Fifth report of Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration—(Mr. Portelance).

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

TABLING OF SUMMARY REPORT ON INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present in both official languages the summary report on inflation, unemployment and economic policy of the Prices and Incomes Commission received today.