

nonetheless, because I think he was sincere but unfortunately he forgot the most elementary rules of the House concerning the equal rights and privileges which fall to all members.

**Mr. Speaker,** the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre raised very interesting points when he referred to the specific rule dealing with the establishment of committees. This is what he said in his argument quite simply: Only a duly established committee can spend the Canadian taxpayers' money on a mission. It is my conviction that hon. members opposite are aware of this, and it is for that reason that the document now before us refers to a task force rather than a committee. And this is why the answer given to the hon. member—

**An hon. Member:** They are charging personal expenditures!

**Mr. Deniger:** —for Yorkton-Melville also deals with a task force. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that if this be a task force they have no right, any more than we do, or the New Democratic Party for that matter, to spend public moneys. I must speak frankly. I read the report. I already gave interviews on television on the contents of the report, and I would have liked to co-operate, but this is first and foremost a caucus report—

**An hon. Member:** Partisan!

**Mr. Deniger:** —that was referred to the minister in charge of the subject matter discussed in caucus, but unfortunately it required a contribution of several thousand dollars from Canadian taxpayers.

**An hon. Member:** Shame!

**Mr. Deniger:** The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville submitted that the amounts referred to may be a small part only of the total expenditures.

**An hon. Member:** Twenty thousand dollars!

**Mr. Deniger:** And this is not all, Mr. Speaker. There is the other committee of the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil), and other committees of the hon. member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker).

We opposition members are as much interested as members opposite in the problems of western farmers, because they are national issues that should be of interest to every member in the House.

**An hon. Member:** Quite true.

**Mr. Deniger:** We are not like the Prime Minister who is not interested in the referendum.

**An hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Deniger:** In concluding, Mr. Speaker, allow me to point out once again my disappointment as a new member. When I

*Privilege—Mr. Nystrom*

learned that this task force was being set up, if I had known what I know now about the rights and regulations of the House, I would probably have asked the Chair to correct that mistake. I do so this afternoon, unfortunately in difficult circumstances on a Friday afternoon during the consideration of a question of privilege in which I am taking part and which I support. I am, however, deeply disappointed, as I indicated to the minister, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that when you make your decision this afternoon or Monday on that basic issue, you will take into consideration the fact that a young member deserves as much consideration as a member with years of experience. If young members opposite were appointed to that committee, I do not see why as a new member I could not be on it as well.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to conclude this discussion with the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad that we are going to end it on a high note. My support for the questions raised by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) has to do with the question of the privileges of members on all sides of the House. I think that the privileges of all members have been affronted and abused in this situation of an in-party, in-government caucus appointment of a task force to study this particular aspect of grain handling.

The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers) mentioned that the previous government had appointed Justice Emmett Hall to study the question of the railroad system and the movement of grain in western Canada. How can anyone equate the appointment of Justice Hall, who is outside the parliamentary structure, to study a problem with the appointment of three Conservative backbenchers by the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) to study a problem? How can anyone use that argument to say that that justifies the appointment of three Tory backbenchers to do a study paid for by the taxpayers of Canada?

● (1410)

People in Canada today are cynical about politicians and politics. In fact, when they voted on May 22, they thought they were exchanging a happy Liberal government for "Mr. Clean". Now we are finding out we have "Mr. Sneeze". In fact, they expected a different kind of performance.

**An hon. Member:** Instead of greensleeves it is bluesleeves.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I remember when this government was in opposition and members would raise questions about such things as Christmas trees at 24 Sussex Drive and about the expenditure of taxpayers' money for things which were primarily related to only one political party in this House of Commons. Indeed, the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt), who is extremely quiet these days, was always the bug in the government when he was on the opposition side of the House with respect to the whole question of these kinds of expenditures.