

*Cabinet Security*

that is essential to the discussion of a very important subject, but that we will deal with in another situation.

I say that the Acting Prime Minister misled this House and the people of Canada yesterday by statements in the House and by a statement he made outside the House. In my humble view, that is a clear point of privilege, a violation of the privileges of members of this House. If Your Honour recognizes that there is a prima facie case of privilege, I will be pleased to move the following motion:

That the discrepancies between the statements made to this House by the Acting Prime Minister in answer to questions addressed to him on Monday, November 15, and the contents of a Privy Council document published in *The Gazette of Montreal* on Tuesday, November 16, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Resign.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for York South has given notice of his intention to raise this matter by way of a question of privilege. The matter is one of some importance and perhaps some complexity. Unfortunately, because of special circumstances, the Chair has not had an opportunity to look into the precedents to the extent to which I would have liked, and rather than reach a decision which would not be founded upon the proper authorities, I would ask the hon. member's co-operation in allowing the Chair to hold the matter in abeyance for a few hours so that I might have an opportunity, later in the afternoon, to consider all the facts, to consider the hon. member's statement, in particular, and give a ruling later in the afternoon.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

ALLEGED BREAKDOWN OF CABINET SECURITY—  
REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION  
UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I am seeking the unanimous consent of the House to make a motion under Standing Order 43. The special and urgent circumstances involved would appear to be the complete breakdown of government cabinet security involving the publication in *The Canadian Forum* of the Gray Report, the publication in the *Montreal Gazette* today of what purports to be a cabinet document, and the publication in the *Toronto Sun* today of a story dealing with the refusal of the Prime Minister to allow the Minister of Manpower and Immigration to bring into the House of Commons the amendments to the Immigration Act which have been approved by the appropriate cabinet committee.

I would therefore move, if unanimous consent is given: That a special committee of this House consisting of six members who support the government and six members of opposition parties be established for the purpose of reviewing, considering and reporting on the chaotic situation which exists as a result of the publication of cabinet documents provided by unauthorized per-

[Mr. Lewis.]

sons and that such committee have the power to send for persons, papers and records and to consider and report on the right of the public to be informed and the extent to which the government may restrict that right.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's motion proposed under the terms of Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no unanimous consent.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Shame.

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

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—PUBLICATION OF CABINET  
DOCUMENT BY MONTREAL "GAZETTE"—INVESTIGATION  
OF SECURITY BREACH

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Yesterday I asked the hon. gentleman whether a certain cabinet document existed. He told me then he was unable to give an answer relating to confidential cabinet information. In view of the publication in the *Montreal Gazette* today of what purports to be a cabinet document, a sentence from which I quoted yesterday, I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether, in fact, the purported cabinet document published exists?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the government takes a very serious view—

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

**Mr. Sharp:** —of this incident and it is clear that a member of the press, or members of the press, have gained access to a confidential cabinet document. I am glad to see, from the motion put forward by the hon. member for Peace River, that he also considers it to be a serious business. Perhaps hon. members behind him do not but he does and we do. This matter involves a serious breach of security. I should add that the report that appears in the *Montreal Gazette* is not completely accurate. It contains discrepancies. One to which I draw particular attention is the use of the phrase "the Gray report". This is not a quotation from the cabinet document.

• (2:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Stanfield:** I have a supplementary question arising from the statement of the Acting Prime Minister that he views this as a very serious breach of cabinet security. I would ask the hon. gentleman whether an investigation has been launched, what is the method of investigation