

No. 130

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1968.

2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Honourable Member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) having raised a question of privilege relating to certain words used by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister proposed to move,—“That the words used by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister on a C.B.C. national television interview broadcast on February 21st, 1968, to wit:

“That’s the way elections should be brought about. Not by this kind of trickery situation last Monday night.”

“Are you going to let these people manoeuvre you by this kind of trickery into a general election at this particular time?” and other statements of a like nature, as reported in the official transcript of the said broadcast, constitute a reflection upon the proceedings of this House, a reflection on the conduct and honour of Members of this House, and thus constitute a breach of the privileges of said Members and of the House itself, and that this House take such action in respect thereof as may be in accord with the practices and conventions established for the protection and safeguarding of the said privileges.”

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank honourable Members for the advice they have given the Chair. I might say, perhaps, that after listening to all those arguments I am a little more confused than I was at the beginning—and I was confused then.

I shall not deal with all the arguments which have been advanced by honourable Members who have taken part in the debate. I think I should point out that I have allowed more latitude than usual on such occasions when normally, I think, the Speaker should rise as early as possible after the motion has been raised to rule whether or not there is a *prima facie* case of privilege. However, I felt this to be a matter of such importance that there ought to be