

From my standpoint, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that all this should prompt us to raise basic questions as to whether the rules of justice and fairness are respected in this House. Should a few private sector individuals who happen to share the political convictions of certain traditional parties in this House be given ready access to research services, a privilege we have been denied because our views are different? I am not sure that the private sector should have access to the resources of the House of Commons, Mr. Speaker. I think that is a fundamental question because today it has to do with constitutional matters, tomorrow it might be immigration, and the day after it might involve another issue where the resources of the House of Commons would be put at the disposal of one interest group or another.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for which everybody is grateful refers to freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression. I have every reason to believe that if we are denied access to some services, it is because of our political beliefs. But I will go even further, Mr. Speaker, for I have an even more serious case to report.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean who sits in the House of Commons as an Independent is a member in good standing of the Bélanger-Campeau Commission, just as are the hon. member for Papineau—Saint-Michel and the hon. member for Outremont. Both these members have access not only to the research services of the House of Commons, but also to a new staff of four people who claim they are there to collect objective data. Well, Mr. Speaker, these objective data are not made available to the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean, in spite of the fact that he has the same right as both our colleagues on the Bélanger-Campeau Commission and should have access to the same services provided by government staff from the Privy Council. Some hon. members of this House are discriminated against because of their political beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing against the old parties behaving like great bedfellows, but when they get special treatment, they or their party should pay from their own pocket. In this case, public funds, which are provided by the Canadian people and Quebecers, whether they be in favour of the federalist or sovereignist option, are now used simply to promote one side of the issue. I suggest

that, as members of the House, we should ask ourselves serious questions, namely: How come Marcel Beaudry can have access to the research services of the House of Commons while Gilles Rocheleau cannot? Why is it that Privy Council staff prepare briefings for all hon. members except the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean? That is my question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

• (1530)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I listened with interest to the hon. member. Part of his complaint is the subject of a matter which the Chair is presently studying and with which the Chair must deal and respond to the House.

I will consider the other matters. I must say that I will have to look at it very carefully to see privilege. A breach of privilege is when the hon. member is unable to carry on his duties in the House. The hon. member is speaking of research work which is available to parties in this House, ultimately paid for by the Canadian public, but that research is the property of the members of that particular party. It certainly would not be the first time in the history of this Parliament that research work that has been prepared by research groups for any individual party, or for that matter, the Library of Parliament, has been released to all kinds of people across this country to assist them and their groups in various matters that they might wish to do.

I will look at the hon. member's intervention and I will try to take it into account before I bring down the ruling on the other matters that he raised. I thank the hon. member.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

FEDERAL POLICY STATEMENT

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), I have the honour, on behalf of the Prime Minister, to table in both official languages a government policy statement on the future of the federal Public Service.