

Business of the House

referred to citation 159 of Beauchesne, paragraph 2, which says that a minister of the crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a newspaper, book or other document unless he is prepared to lay it upon the table. This is a rule that would not apply in this present case. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will realize that if we were to accept this interpretation now it would mean that when an hon. member says anything in committee or in the house he would be forced to lay the source of his information on the table.

If an hon. member were quoting from a book, that would be all right. However, if he were to say, I have compiled figures from such a source, then any hon. member has to be satisfied with this information. That is the ruling I make, and I think that is the only sensible ruling I can make.

Mr. Pearson: I wish to clarify the point—

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Pearson: In order to clarify this matter, which is an important one, with great respect to you, Mr. Chairman, what I have stated is that as a result of your ruling—we want to be clear on it—we on this side can use tables, statistics, figures, and all we have to do now in answer to a challenge from the other side is to say that they are from a government source.

Mr. Nowlan: No.

Mr. MacInnis: Perhaps I can clear this up now. It is a D.B.S. labour report, No. 23, about which the hon. gentlemen are inquiring. I should like, in the few minutes that are left—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Some hon. Members: Sit down. Shame.

The Chairman: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes.

Mr. Pallett: Killing time.

The Chairman: I should like to know if we have disposed of the first point of order. The Leader of the Opposition did not seem satisfied. Is the ruling not accepted?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I state what I was going to say?

The Chairman: I should like to know if the first point of order is disposed of.

Mr. Pearson: So far as I am concerned, it is disposed of. You have made your ruling, and we are bound by that. We do not have to identify the statistics.

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Mr. MacInnis: In the few minutes left at my disposal, I would bypass this subject and go on to another.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I should like to raise a point of order.

Mr. MacInnis: The hon. member has interrupted me on several occasions.

The Chairman: Order. I would just say my ruling applies only to the present case and, it being five o'clock, it is my duty to rise and report progress and request leave to sit again.

Mr. Chevrier: May I make this suggestion, that we would be prepared to let the hon. member for Cape Breton South continue and finish his speech at this time.

The Chairman: I am sorry, but the standing orders require that I rise at this time.

Mr. Chevrier: With unanimous consent?

The Chairman: When Mr. Speaker resumes the chair, the suggestion might be made to him.

Progress reported.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, before Your Honour took the chair I made a suggestion to the chairman of committees which he stated he could not entertain until Your Honour was in the chair. It was this: That because of a point of order that was raised prior to five o'clock, and which took quite a little time to dispose of—I am not so sure it has been disposed of—the hon. member for Cape Breton South has not been able to conclude his remarks. The suggestion I make is, so far as we are concerned, the hon. member for Cape Breton South be allowed to complete his speech. For that matter we would be prepared to go on till six o'clock, but I do not know whether hon. members will agree.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the hour for private bills be waived entirely, or would the house consider dealing with the private bills and then reverting to committee? There is a private bill to be referred to the banking and commerce committee and which requires second reading. It is Bill No. S-7, to incorporate the United Canada Insurance Company. Then there are some divorce bills for second reading. It is possible they might be disposed of in the course of ten or fifteen minutes.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, on this question we will, as we always have done, continue to give consideration to the waiving of the hour set aside for private members' bills. But