

*Privilege—Mr. Knowles*

I will hear now the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) who has asked to be heard on a question of personal privilege.

MR. KNOWLES—REMARKS OF MR. FRIESEN RESPECTING USE OF WINNIPEG CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Madam Speaker, I ask to be heard on a question of personal privilege. The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen) has made a general reference to Manitoba and the only Manitoba member to whom he has referred is the member for Winnipeg North Centre. He did not get around to it, but he is implying that I am responsible for accepting tax dollars for premises used for political purposes as well as for my constituency office.

I strongly suggest to the hon. member that he ascertain his facts before he makes a scurrilous charge such as that.

You do not know it, Madam Speaker, but this can be checked with the officers of the House. It is true that my constituency office is in a building that we, the New Democratic Party, own.

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

**Mr. Rae:** Wait for it, fellows.

**Mr. Knowles:** Such lack of intelligence really startles me.

The present Clerk, the previous Clerk and all of the officials involved in this matter know that I have insisted, even though I was told I could do otherwise, that because my office is in a building we own I do not want any rent paid by the government at all, and no such rent is paid.

My constituency secretaries, two of them, are paid as we are entitled to have them paid, but there is no rent charged to the Government of Canada.

**Mr. Kilgour:** What about the rule?

**Mr. Knowles:** What rule?

**Mr. Kilgour:** What about the rule which says you are not supposed to have it in your office?

**Mr. Knowles:** The rule is that you cannot collect rent for premises which are used for other purposes. I collect no rent at all. I suggest that the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta, if he is the gentleman I believe he is, apologize forthwith.

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

**Mr. Friesen:** Madam Speaker, maybe the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has not been in his office lately. I would point out to him that the rule does not say "pay rent." The rule says, and I will read it to him—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is continuing to debate this question. I reiterate to the hon. member

that the proper place to deal with this matter, if he does have a case, is in the members' services committee.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has indicated that something has been said or implied, and he used the word "scurrilous" with respect to the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen). That is the opinion of the member for Winnipeg North Centre. Coming from a member of his stature in the House, it is a very serious charge.

**Mr. Cousineau:** He should have respect for that.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Just do not get excited.

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

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** What I want to suggest, given the seriousness of the charge that the hon. member has engaged himself in scurrilous behaviour, is that the member, rightly or wrongly, should be given an opportunity to deal with that charge. I thought he was about to do that, Madam Speaker, and I wonder, therefore, whether he might be allowed to do so.

**Madam Speaker:** If my understanding is correct, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) did not accuse the member of being scurrilous. He said there was a scurrilous charge, and that is a different matter. Let us not enter into this kind of debate. It seems to me that the hon. member at the time did not use any unparliamentary language.

I have notice of a question of privilege from the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Cossitt).

MR. COSSITT—RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO BE HEARD

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Madam Speaker, I rise on what to me is a very serious question of privilege concerning the rights of Members of Parliament to be heard in this chamber. I did not receive this right on a question of privilege that was before the House on Tuesday. It is a similar situation to that which I notice has occurred on several previous occasions. The specific question of privilege raised before the House concerned a matter in which I was directly involved.

First, may I refer to the remarks made Tuesday by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). In reply to the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Durham-Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence) on the so-called Taschereau papers, the Prime Minister directly referred to me twice. I am not saying that he said anything derogatory; I simply mention that I was drawn into the question by having my name mentioned on two occasions. The hon. member for Durham-Northumberland also referred in his remarks to the member for Leeds-Grenville, I think on two occasions. So even if I had not wanted to be, I was involved in the question of privilege by having been mentioned a least four times.