

The Prime Minister seems to have the idiosyncrasy of always committing this country and then forcing the house to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I should remind the hon. member that he should only speak on the motion before us today and abstain from discoursing on other subjects.

Mr. Gauthier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but it was simply meant as a reply to the arguments which the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) put forward yesterday.

Those, Mr. Speaker, are the reasons for our objections Friday night, and if standing orders had been observed, we would have been able to submit those facts to hon. members before embarking on expenses which we were unable to meet.

However, the future will tell us who was right. Two days more would certainly not have changed anything as regards the fate of the world, but the principles of this house would have been preserved.

Anyway, according to the latest reports, our soldiers are now over there.

May this be a lesson to the house so that our great statesmen who long for honours, medals and titles may know, once for all, that in peacetime as in wartime, or even in the war for peace: "It is no use running fast, if there is no timely start." Indeed, the surest way is to follow the century old rules of the house.

We hold no grudge against the Deputy Speaker, whom we have in high regard and whom, moreover, we pity for having served as a scapegoat. We are acting in this way to remind the various groups of the house that the rules exist for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, the one who makes the law should submit to the law like everybody else.

When this principle is no longer respected, when this standard is bypassed, when party interests have destroyed this barrier, then there will be anarchy throughout the country.

Once again we do not hold a grudge against anybody, but we shall never allow the law to be scorned to such an extent.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I hear some oh, oh's on the other side of the house. I wonder, in similar circumstances, if Liberal members had gone through exactly what we ourselves suffered last Friday they would be prepared to say oh, oh in the house, because the prerogatives and rights of certain members, in this instance the members of our group, were completely disregarded and brushed aside by the Deputy Speaker.

I shall say, at this point—

Non-confidence in Deputy Speaker

Mr. Lambert: You were not even here.

An hon. Member: Where were you?

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, Friday afternoon, I objected to giving the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) leave to present his resolution with a view to sending troops to Cyprus.

At that time the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) were very well aware of the fact that our group did not accept that haste to bring that resolution before parliament while, 48 hours' before, a regular notice could have been given the house to the effect that such a motion would be introduced.

Now last Friday I had to be absent in the evening to go to Three Rivers. The Secretary of State for External Affairs was aware of that. I wonder what happened during the supper hour, between six and eight o'clock, that the Deputy Speaker, at eight o'clock, decided to let the Prime Minister introduce his resolution, although some members of our group objected to the introduction of that resolution at that time.

That is what the Deputy Speaker said, and I quote from page 911 of *Hansard*:

The Prime Minister asked leave to present the motion and he is proceeding on that basis.

He is admitting that the Prime Minister had not obtained the unanimous consent of the house. But later on there was a request to put the Chair's ruling to the house, in view of the fact that the Chair had asked for the unanimous consent of the house.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a deplorable violation of the rules of the house.

Of course, the leader of the official opposition admitted during the debate yesterday, that parliamentary procedure had not been quite in order, and he blamed the government and the Prime Minister for introducing this motion with too much haste. I quote here what the Leader of the Opposition said, as recorded on page 1209 of *Hansard*:

For that reason I think some reference should be made to the motion. After all, as Leader of the Opposition, as the Prime Minister has said on more than one occasion, I am an officer of this house.

All through the years I have been one of those who have strongly stood against the actions of any government which would trample on the rights and privileges of the opposition.

Why did the Leader of the Opposition not stand up, since he admits that he was in the house Friday afternoon and Friday night?

I took that view not only when in opposition but also when we enjoyed an overwhelming majority in the house. My desire has been at all times to preserve inviolate the rights and privileges of minorities in this chamber. If we should allow action to be taken that is contrary to the privileges and rules of parliament, then indeed