

The Address—Mr. Reid

hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin). Mr. Speaker asked me this afternoon to show him precedents as evidence that during the debate on the address a subamendment could be moved which was a little outside the subject matter of the amendment.

I have found such precedents by checking the debates on the address for the years 1963, 1964 and 1965. In 1965, the main amendment—

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order; I suggest to the hon. member that the subamendment presented this afternoon has already been ruled upon by the Speaker. I do not believe we can permit any further discussion of the Speaker's ruling.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, as for the question of privilege, I have no intention of discussing the Speaker's ruling of this afternoon. I merely would like to quote three rulings in the last three years, so that this afternoon's ruling may not set a precedent. This is my only motivation; I had no intention of questioning the Speaker's ruling.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order; I should point out again to the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) that in referring to this ruling, he is in fact commenting on the Speaker's ruling.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I was asked for these precedents this afternoon by Mr. Speaker himself. I could not quote them at that time because I was somewhat taken aback. That is why I wanted to give them to you tonight.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order; I recognize that at the time the subamendment was moved, the Speaker did ask for comments from members of the house. I am sure that the hon. member for Lapointe will recall that this request for comment was made before the Speaker made his decision. Having once made that decision, I do not believe the Chair can permit any further comment or discussion of the ruling.

Mr. Reid: Now that we have returned from dinner, Mr. Speaker, I thought perhaps we could put a little brighter light on things if I were to extend to all hon. gentlemen an invitation to come to Kenora, which is one of the prime tourist areas in Canada, from the

[Mr. Grégoire.]

14th to the 21st of August. At this time we will be inaugurating an international sailing race over one of the largest inland bodies of water in Canada or the United States. This is a first. This year the race will begin from the United States side, but next year, our centennial year, it will begin in Kenora. After a long, hard session, which I am told we are going to have with all of the goodies in the Speech from the Throne, perhaps those who would like to relax may come up and enjoy this event.

I spoke generally about my constituency and about some of the problems we were facing in that constituency which were of national importance. This evening, I believe I will use the remainder of my time to discuss another problem of very great importance. So far as I am aware, no one has commented on this subject. I refer to the plight of our Indian people. As you know, shortly after the election there was a march of 400 Indians into Kenora, Ontario to protest the type of conditions under which they were living. What I should like to do now is give a brief history of this march and indicate what the accomplishments have been to date, as well as what is going to happen or ought to happen in the future.

The problems of the townspeople of Kenora and the Indian population of the area have a longstanding history. This particular issue began on July 31, 1965 when *Weekend* magazine published an article entitled, "The Indians: An Abandoned and Dispossessed People". The article, I believe, was over-sensational, but it did point out that there was discrimination and that the Indians were not having a fair shake, so something ought to be done. The article had the effect of a bomb-shell. A meeting was called by the Crown Attorney to protest it. It was well attended but unfortunately nothing concrete resulted from the meeting. A decision to do something about the situation was taken by an organization called the Indian-White committee, which had been in existence for some time without having been able to accomplish anything.

Shortly after the election, on the 13th and 14th of November, this organization called a seminar to discuss all aspects of the Indian's plight. The seminar was well attended by outsiders, senior government officials from both federal and provincial governments as well as by some Indians. The Indians were not able to come out in force because poor weather conditions kept most of them on the