

No. 186

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1975

11.00 o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

Mr. Baker, from the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, presented the Sixth Report of the Committee, which is as follows:

Your Committee has considered its Order of Reference dated Friday, July 25, 1975 which reads as follows:

That all articles contained in the July 24th and 25th Montreal Gazette relating to the conduct of the Member for Kenora-Rainy River vis à vis the November 18th Budget, including the allegations that the said Member had advance knowledge of the said Budget and conveyed that knowledge to businessmen, and that the said Member had advance knowledge from official sources of amendments to be proposed to a Bill emanating from the said Budget and conveyed that knowledge to businessmen, and the discrepancy in the editing of the Gazette's purported transcript of the proceedings of this House as compared to the report in *House of Commons Debates*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Your Committee held ten meetings and adduced evidence from thirteen witnesses, and has agreed to make the following observations:

1. Your Committee reasserts the principle that the reputation of every Member of the House of Commons

must continue to be protected because a reflection upon a Member is a reflection upon the House itself. At the same time, your Committee is conscious of the balance which must be struck between the principle that Parliament should be protected from improper obstruction of its functions and the principle of freedom of speech of the citizen to criticize the institution or membership of Parliament.

2. Your Committee finds there was no evidence before the Committee to indicate that the Honourable Member for Kenora-Rainy River had advance knowledge of the contents of the Budget presented November 18th last, as was admitted by the Montreal Gazette's retraction in its issue of July 25th, nor was there any evidence before the Committee to indicate that the honourable Member for Kenora-Rainy River had advance knowledge from official sources of amendments to be proposed to a Bill emanating from the said Budget.

3. Your Committee also finds there was no evidence before the Committee to indicate that the Montreal Gazette in its article of July 24th was acting with malice and notes the apology to the Honourable Member for Kenora-Rainy River contained in the July 25th issue of the Gazette in regard only to the time frame within which the