

*Privilege—Mr. Brisco*

Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure for a study and a report to the House, to set out for all Hon. Members the guidelines under which franking privileges might be used.

I am sure you, Sir, have received complaints from your constituents concerning material which you sent out. Whether or not it was partisan, you may have felt that it was perfectly accurate. I sent out material which people complained was perhaps an improper use of the frank. There is no question about it; the postal Act gives us a very broad right to use the frank. Indeed it directs that Members' mail should be franked.

Certainly in my view—and I think it is the view of other Hon. Members—it ought to be looked at and examined at this point by the committee.

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be brief. I think what is bothering all Members of the House is the fact that it is such a blatant abuse of the franking privilege and such a blatant political move to say, "Phone your local campaign headquarters and get involved now", when it is a provincial matter. That is what is bothering all of us.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of hypocrisy going around the House.

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

**Mr. Waddell:** Let me finish. I have the householder of the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre (Miss Carney) entitled "Report From Parliament", and there she is with Bill Vander Zalm on the cover.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** So what?

**Mr. Waddell:** So what!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It is a different Party.

**Mr. Murphy:** Like hell it is.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. No doubt the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) would like to put forward an argument on whether or not this is a question of privilege. I would ask him and other Hon. Members to confine their remarks to just that.

**Mr. Waddell:** I will. It is not a point of privilege. It does not affect that Member directly on the narrow technical ground. It may be a point, on examination by the committee, as the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) said, about the use of the frank. If the committee wants to do that, then the committee should do it. It has the appropriate means of doing it. There is a chairman of the committee, and it has ways of taking things under consideration, but this particular point should not be referred from the Speaker.

**Ms. Copps:** Don't play politics.

**Mr. Waddell:** The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain is yelling at me—

**Ms. Copps:** No, no. I am the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

**Mr. Waddell:** The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) was not here when the referendum was going on in Quebec. She should look at some of the stuff her own Party—

**Ms. Copps:** Fighting for Canada is hardly the same case.

**Mr. Murphy:** Shut up and sit down. Why don't you get some more government business—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway has made his point.

**Mr. Waddell:** No, Mr. Speaker, I have not finished making my point. On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for York—Scarborough (Mr. McCrossan).

**Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York—Scarborough):** Mr. Speaker, my point is on the same issue but it is somewhat different. When Your Honour is considering whether this matter should be referred to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure, the use or misuse of the frank is one issue.

Something which deals directly with the privileges of Members of the House of Commons is the use of House of Commons stationery and equipment. It is clearly within our privileges to have free stationery provided for our work as Members of Parliament. I contend that the use of the stationery itself constitutes a breach of the privileges of Members of Parliament when it is used for a provincial election purpose.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, just very briefly and just to respond to the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), I would beg to differ with him in that I think this issue indeed affects all Members of the House of Commons. From the standpoint of privilege, it goes to the very heart of our functions as Members of Parliament. Anything done individually or collectively which would serve to undermine the integrity of individual Members of Parliament, or to undermine the honour or dignity of this institution, has an impact upon all of us.

I agree with the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) who suggested this was an issue which should be clarified. I think it is time that we had some clear guidelines, rules and regulations that would give all Hon. Members some guidance in the future in respect of the use of the frank, the use of mailing privileges, and the use of House of Commons stationery and envelopes. It is a much broader issue than simply the fact that a group of New Democratic Members of Parliament saw fit to get involved in an election campaign by