

*Privilege—Mr. Rodriguez*

done when the estimates of each department are before the committees.

Before questions of privilege are raised by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) and the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), there are three ministers who wish to table documents. I wonder if the House might consent to allowing them to do so now.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### ELECTIONS

#### TABLING OF ORDER IN COUNCIL FOR EIGHT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I should like to table, in both official languages, a copy of an order in council requiring that writs of election be issued for eight electoral districts and that the vote be held on Monday, October 16, 1978.

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

**An hon. Member:** That's just before your birthday.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B) 1977-78

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting Supplementary Estimates (B) of sums required for the service of Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978, was presented by Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board), and read by Mr. Speaker to the House.

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### TEXTILE AND CLOTHING BOARD

#### TABLING OF REPORT ON HANDBAGS

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, a report by the Textile and Clothing Board respecting an inquiry on handbags.

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### PRIVILEGE

#### MR. RODRIGUEZ—ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF MEMBERS

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on what I consider to be a very serious matter of privilege. A

[Mr. Speaker.]

week ago in this House it was brought to our attention that two of the members of this House had been the objects of electronic surveillance. Subsequent to that disclosure the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) confirmed in the House that the person responsible for this surveillance had been in the employ of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The person responsible for the surveillance also admitted on national television that he had conducted a bugging operation against me at one point in my riding.

This would clearly indicate to me a breach of privilege if for no other reason than the fact that this calls into question the privacy of communication between a member of parliament and his constituents, and as such clearly inhibits the ability of a member of parliament to perform his duties.

I would also like to refer your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the statement of Mr. Speaker on October 17, 1973, when he said in this House that an incident of electronic surveillance against the caucus of the New Democratic Party was, and I quote: "A prima facie case of breach of privilege".

I might add that even more weight must be given to this question of privilege because since that time we have had the assurance of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) that no member of parliament had been the subject of electronic surveillance by our federal police force since the case of Fred Rose.

Mr. Speaker, it is your role to protect the rights and privileges of members of parliament, and it is to you I turn for redress on this matter. I must ask you in that role to obtain any tapes or other objects resulting from electronic surveillance against myself from whatever level or organization under the Solicitor General which is presently holding that material. I must also ask you in your role as Mr. Speaker to discover why that electronic surveillance operation was undertaken, why I was never informed that the operation had taken place, and why the tapes have not been turned over to me.

Since it has now been seven days since this information became public and I have received neither an apology nor an explanation, I must now, Mr. Speaker, ask you to step into this affair. Notwithstanding the action which I have asked Your Honour to take in this matter, I reserve my right to move a motion of privilege at some future time.

● (1522)

**Mr. Rod Blaker (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) I wonder if Your Honour and the hon. member, who has already indicated he is asking that his motion be reserved in any event, might agree to give the Solicitor General the opportunity to address himself to this question in the next day or two or, at least, the next time he is in the House of Commons.