

say that they exhaust the duties of the high office held by the impartial guardian of parliamentary law—

It is my hope that such a situation will never again occur in this House. However, should it occur again, the Chair, unless it is provided with firm guidelines, would need to consider its course of action with very great care under the new circumstances. I trust that in the overriding interests of this honourable institution, the House will take steps to make known its will as to how the Chair should act before any such situation occurs again.

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

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### PETITION

PRESENTATION OF 184TH REPORT OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the one hundred and eighty-fourth report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented, by filing with the Clerk of the House, by the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) on Wednesday, March 17, 1982 and finds that the petition meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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● (1520)

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

REFLECTIONS ON RECENT EVENTS

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Madam Speaker, your statement just a moment ago takes us on this side totally by surprise. I should like to take the opportunity between now and tomorrow to read carefully the remarks which you have made and perhaps exercise my right of response on behalf of the opposition tomorrow.

**Madam Speaker:** I would very much like hon. members to take my statement as it is made, and I would ask them not to comment on the statement.

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

**Madam Speaker:** I think hon. members will understand that the Chair could take that liberty, and I asked the indulgence of the House to make that statement. In the course of the debate which will take place today, I am sure hon. members can make their opinions known about the general things that I have treated in my statement, namely that parliamentary reform is, of course, clearly needed in the House; I think hon. members are intending to discuss precisely that topic.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, I had no idea that that kind of statement would be made today. Bearing directly as it does on the events of the last two weeks, and ranging as broadly as

### Privilege—Mr. McKinnon

it did, I want to examine it very carefully indeed. I may not wish to reply tomorrow, but it may well be that I will have to request the indulgence of the Chair and of the House to exercise that right of reply.

On government business, it is not my intention, in view of the discussions which are now under way between House leaders, to ask the normal Thursday question. I will defer it until tomorrow.

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### POINT OF ORDER

MR. HERBERT—MOTION FOR PAPERS NO. 85—ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE ORDER

**Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I choose to raise this matter on a point of order rather than on a question of privilege. I have given you notice because it includes privilege and, as such, you require notice and that I raise the matter at the earliest opportunity.

It deals with Motion No. 85 which was answered in the House on February 24. Because the motion was accepted by the House, it was in my opinion an order of the House. I am suggesting—and I did so in my letter to Madam Speaker—that the documents which the House ordered be produced were not in fact produced in their entirety. Rather than going at length into my argument as a question of privilege, I should like to bring it to the attention of Madam Speaker as a point of order. I should like your investigation, and possibly at some later suitable time we can discuss whether in fact the order of the House has in fact been complied with.

**Madam Speaker:** I think I can comply with that request. I will investigate the matter and perhaps I can take it up with the hon. member later or at another time in the House.

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### PRIVILEGE

MR. MCKINNON—NOTICE OF QUESTION TO BE RAISED

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, I rise to give notice of a question of privilege. I had hoped the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Lamontagne) would be here at this time. I have just discovered that the minutes of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence have been altered in five places at the request of his staff.

**Madam Speaker:** Order. The hon. member may send me notice that he wants to raise a question of privilege. He need not do it in the House. I will accept a written statement by the hon. member, but he need not give notice in the House.

**Mr. McKinnon:** I will do so at the first opportunity.