

Reports of Committees

refers a matter to such a committee, which matter is then ruled out of order by the chairman on the ground that only this house can instruct the committee, and when we bring it up in this house Your Honour rules us out of order?

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the hon. member seriously contends that he is raising a question of privilege. He is in effect discussing a matter which was up for discussion before a ruling was made on it. As that matter has now been decided I do not see any point of privilege.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege which the hon. member has just raised, surely it is of concern to this house if a commitment made by the government leader of the house with reference to certain legislation is not honoured. I am not a member of that committee and I do not know whether or not that commitment was honoured, but members on that committee do feel that there has been a breach of faith. I think the government has a responsibility to do something about this question and not hide behind some interpretation of the rules of the house. If the house in good faith accepted a minister's word and sent legislation to a committee for study, surely that committee ought to deal with that legislation in the terms outlined to the house by the minister responsible for making the commitment.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I indicated when I interrupted the hon. member for Lapointe nearly an hour ago—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: Playing politics.

Mr. Pickersgill: Am I not to be heard after my word is questioned? I indicated, and the house has now sustained the decision, that matters within the committee shall be settled by that committee. I also offered to go before the committee to be questioned on any undertakings which I had given, about the committee, in the proper place. It seems to me that if the house had accepted that undertaking at that time we would have got on with the business of the house today.

I repeat the undertaking. I am most anxious that any undertaking I gave as house leader or in the name of the government shall be carried out, and I will be very happy at any convenient time to appear before the committee to be questioned about the exact nature of my undertaking. I give that to the house as my word. I am not a member of that committee. I had nothing whatever to do

with the proceedings which took place in the committee. However, I make the offer to appear before it and give any information I can which will assist the committee in any way in regard to this matter; and I hope that the undertaking I gave in good faith will be kept.

An hon. Member: You had better tell the chairman.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, the Secretary of State is simply stating that he will appear before the committee and answer their questions. The point is that he made a definite commitment, a commitment which is on the record. The chairman of the committee can overrule the Secretary of State when he does make an appearance. Surely this is a case for the Prime Minister to intervene and speak to the chairman of the committee.

Mr. Martineau: May I just ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have had a point of privilege raised and it has been decided. We have now had further discussion. I think we should get on with the business before the house.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

**RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES—
MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN
FOURTH REPORT**

Mr. Prosper Boulanger (Mercier) presented the fourth report of the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, and asked for unanimous consent to move that the report be concurred in.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, we do not propose to give unanimous consent to this recommendation, because we feel it is wrong that any committee with 60 members should be able to proceed with a quorum of only 10.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—CONCURRENCE IN FIRST
REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. John R. Matheson (Leeds) presented the first report of the standing committee on external affairs and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

BANK OF CANADA ACT

AMENDMENT TO CHANGE FORM OF BANK NOTES

Mr. Maurice Côté (Chicoutimi) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-118, to amend the Bank of Canada Act (form and material of notes).