

proceedings of this committee. Although the matter is serious I am sure hon. members will agree with me when I say that we would be getting into difficulty were hon. members of the committee to come to the house to try to settle matters arising in the committee.

I am not trying to belittle the point raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre or the seriousness or grievousness of the situation suggested by the hon. member for Halifax, but I do suggest to hon. members that perhaps we should not allow this discussion to continue. The Chair should be given the opportunity at this point to express an opinion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: However, I am the servant of this house and if hon. members wish to continue this discussion I shall hear them.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, my intervention will be very brief. I should like to refer to citation 288 at page 237 of *Beauchesne* which states:

Committees are regarded as portions of the house and are governed for the most part in their proceedings by the same rules which prevail in the house.

Every question is determined in a committee in the same manner as in the house to which it belongs.

Later it states:

—whereupon the chairman must suspend the proceedings until a quorum be present or adjourn the committee to some future day.

This indicates to me that there should be at least one day when the chairman is making his decision regarding the sitting of the particular committee. Surely members of the House of Commons are entitled to that day's notice in respect of a committee meeting, even if we should agree that the chairman had the power to do what he has done, as I doubt very much.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my remarks will be very brief and I should like to relate them to the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. It is my belief that some type of a ruling or decision by Your Honour is necessary because of the tenor of events in the defence committee in the past two days.

Part of the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre appears to relate to threats and arguments in the committee about arrangements or deals

Conduct of Chairman of Defence Committee made by the committee. This is quite contrary to the rules. To add to the confusion, the chairman in only slightly veiled terms made it quite clear to the members of the committee that it requires only 9 to make a quorum.

In support of my suggestion as to the need for some meaningful decision by Your Honour let me make two points. The question of privilege in the final analysis must result in a ruling on what may be a point of order, but in no way does this mitigate the seriousness or grievousness of the situation which now exists in the defence committee.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could say two or three words about this matter. I attended the committee meeting this morning, and my recollection of the events is the same as that outlined by the hon. members for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill), and Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent). I do not intend to go into what actually happened but I should like to say the hon. member for Greenwood spoke very good sense when he said he could not see any real purpose in the committee reconvening this afternoon at two o'clock. In view of the general feeling and tenor of the committee this morning and at the time we adjourned, nothing useful could be accomplished by meeting again this afternoon. I am sure the result of such a meeting would be a further series of rows.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to rise on a question of personal privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for Cape Breton South rising on a point of order? He has already taken part in this debate.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I am rising on a question of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: We can have only one question of privilege before the house at a time.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): This is a personal question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Whether the hon. member's question is personal or impersonal, there can be but one question of privilege before the house at any one time according to our rules. I suggest to the hon. member that he may wish to rise on a point of order.