

one that should be considered very seriously by the Chair. My suggestion is that Your Honour consider the advisability of having the offender appear before the bar of the House to explain the origin of the idea, the manner in which he accomplished his objective and, indeed, all of the details of the rather sordid action.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that at this stage it might not be in order to have a debate on the very important point raised by the hon. member for York South. In any event, it is obvious to the Chair that there is a prima facie case of breach of privilege involving the type of situation which is normally investigated and looked into by the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections of the House of Commons. The hon. member for York South proposes a type of action which might better come as a recommendation from the Committee on Privileges and Elections. At the same time, if there is a desire on the part of the House that the motion proposed by the hon. member be put to the House at this time it would have to be done by unanimous consent because it is a substantive motion.

● (1420)

With respect, I would suggest to the hon. member for York South that for an hour or two the matter might be allowed to rest unless he wishes to put the usual motion that the matter be referred forthwith to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. There could be an immediate meeting of the committee and an immediate recommendation perhaps that the action suggested by the hon. member for York South and the hon. member for Yukon be taken. It would be more regular if we proceeded on this basis rather than on the basis of the motion suggested by the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Lewis: On this point, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks you have made. I wish to make it very clear to the House and to the CTV employee that I have complete confidence in that employee's decency, honesty and integrity.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: And he bugged you!

Mr. Lewis: I am as ready to condemn people as are others. Some people may be in a position to do things but I am not prepared personally to be judge, executioner and perform the punishment and everything else at the same time. What concerns me is whether or not that person keeps his undertaking to me. Obviously the tape is in someone's possession and could be duplicated between now and the time it comes into my possession. It is for that reason, Sir, I think my motion should be acted on by the House immediately and without debate, I hope.

May I also say that the best way to point out the concern of the House is to take action immediately without the usual delay of committee meetings. The committee can discuss the broader issue but this matter should be dealt with now. I would therefore move, subject to you, Sir:

Privilege, Mr. Lewis

That the person or persons who taped the proceedings of the NDP caucus this morning be required to surrender any such tapes forthwith either to me as Leader of the New Democratic Party or as the hon. member for York South or to Mr. Speaker.

I would urge you, Sir, to ascertain whether members will agree that the motion be put immediately without debate so that there is action taken without delay.

Mr. Speaker: A moment ago I indicated the thoughts of the Chair that the regular motion would be a motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. At the same time, if there is unanimous consent of the House to put the motion at this time I will put it. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The agreement is that the motion be put at this time. Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Knowles moves—

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, it comes to our minds that the motion should be worded on the basis of any or all tapes, because we are now checking our caucus room to make certain there are no taping devices there.

Mr. Lewis: I am quite agreeable to that amendment, Mr. Speaker. I hope the Conservatives are paid the same honour. I do not know whether there would be any value in doing it to the Liberals.

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I suggest, with respect, that the motion should be worded that the tape or tapes be returned to the leader of the NDP. The privilege that has been abused in this case is the privilege of that group which was conducting its considerations of policy, as is its duty. May I point out, with respect, that I do not believe that those tapes should go to anybody else but the people who were in that room at that time. That is their privilege and their business. I think it is extremely important that we keep in mind that those tapes belong to the people who were recorded, not to anybody else in the House.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure how we are proceeding. We have had a suggestion by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster that the motion be amended to read, "any or all tapes". The hon. member for Vancouver South has proposed that the motion be amended in some other way. My understanding was that we were proceeding on the basis of unanimous consent. For the orderly conduct of the business of the House I think we should consider the motion I have in my hand, which is in writing as required by the Standing Orders, proposed by the hon. member for York South. Hon. members may want to vote against it, they may wish to do so, but the motion will be put in the terms in which I have received it. I suggest that any other procedure would be disorderly and certainly very complicated. Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moves:

That the person or persons who taped the proceedings of the N.D.P. caucus this morning be requested to surrender any such tapes forthwith either to the member for York South or to Mr. Speaker.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?