[*Translation*]

He has the right to do so.

[*English*]

That is his own prerogative. But he must speak about privilege. How is his privilege affected by the fact that one process has been chosen rather than another? Who has the liberty of choosing the process? Certainly the Chair cannot decide that.

• (1650)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Olivier: I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. Once again, I am sorry. In view of what you mentioned this afternoon, I believe that the hon. member opposite has not been able to show in five minutes that he had anything new to say about the question of privilege. I believe that the more the hon. member opposite goes on, the more what he says is similar to what others have said on other questions of privilege. I therefore believe, Madam Speaker, that you would be justified in cutting off the hon. member and recognizing someone else.

Madam Speaker: According to the decision of which I have already informed the House, the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) is somewhat different from the others which were worded in nearly the same terms and to which I applied a five minute limit. For the information of the House, I want to point out that the question raised by the hon. member for Saskatoon West is somewhat different. I shall now read it, but I find it is rather vague. I could not understand exactly to what the hon. member was referring. Since he started speaking, I have not been able to understand either how his privileges are affected, but I shall read the question to the House.

[*English*]

The hon. member states that the privileges of all hon. members are affected by the, and I quote:

—actual interference and intrusion of the Prime Minister as head of the Executive between the will of the Parliament of Canada represented by the Joint Resolution on the Constitution now before the House and the parliament of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

[*Translation*]

That is the wording of the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Saskatoon West. It is different from that of the seven or eight other questions of privilege I received on this subject. That is why I have not applied the five-minute rule, however, I must warn him that I shall not give him too much time because I still have other questions of privilege to hear.

[*English*]

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I appreciate that admonition, Madam Speaker.

As I say, this is a new and quite different question of privilege from the ones which have been raised before. I want to get through it as quickly as possible, but I have citations to quote to substantiate the point I want to make. Perhaps the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier) could get his apartment mate, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), to explain it to him after hours.

Madam Speaker: I see that the hon. member is going to quote Erskine May to me.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Yes.

Madam Speaker: I want to see where the hon. member's privilege is breached. I know Erskine May nearly by heart on this particular point. Would the hon. member please resume his seat.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I am sorry.

Madam Speaker: There is a limit. It is not a matter of my patience; I will have patience until the end. I know I am here till the end of the session, so whether it is one hon. member speaking or another, it does not affect me personally. But there has to be some kind of credibility to the office of the Speaker and the Chair, and the Chair should not be subjected to listening to arguments which do not at all relate to breaches of privilege. I know Erskine May practically by heart on this particular matter of privilege. The hon. member has spoken since 4.40. I would like him to tell me in what way his privilege is breached. That is what I need to know.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Madam Speaker, Erskine May deals specifically with the question of privilege I am going to raise. I indicated to Your Honour in my letter that when the House does pass on this constitutional resolution addressed to Her Majesty the Queen and the parliament of the United Kingdom, there is absolutely no provision for—in fact there is adequate and some detailed prohibition against—interference with the parliamentary process. It does not lie upon the Prime Minister or any member of the executive to hold the address in his or her back pocket or to determine whether this resolution shall pass at any particular time. It is a matter for the two parliaments to determine exactly when that matter will appear on the legislative order paper of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom. Any interference—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Olivier: On a point of order, Madam Speaker. I fully agree that hon. members are entitled to raise questions of privilege. The member opposite is launching a debate rather than raising a question of privilege. In addition, he is holding your authority up to ridicule by failing to respect the decision you have made this afternoon. That member, Madam Speaker, is challenging your authority in the House through his decision to initiate a debate in spite of the warnings you gave him.

[*English*]

Madam Speaker: I have to take into consideration that particular point of order. The hon. member is discussing something which has not yet happened. It is hypothetical, and