

Privilege—Mr. Heaps

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think this matter goes much further than that. In my opinion it should be referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING: I think possibly it would be well to hear the hon. member in the first instance.

Mr. BENNETT: I quite agree that the matter should not be dealt with now in the absence of the hon. member.

PREVENTIVE SERVICE SEARCHES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. C. MATTHEWS (Minister of National Revenue): A few days ago the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard) asked me a question. He wanted information as to whether the Department of National Revenue or the minister had issued instructions to the preventive service to hold up and search cars of private citizens on the 24th of May on the roads all over the eastern townships.

In reply I may say that no such instructions were issued by the department or the minister.

PRIVILEGE—MR. HEAPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Before the orders of the day are proceeded with I wish to refer to the proceedings of Friday afternoon when the estimates of the Post Office Department were before the committee. I observe on page 3885 of Hansard it is stated that the item was agreed to, and I presume that refers to the last item in the estimates of the department. I was under the impression that when the chairman of the committee stated that the item was carried several members on this side of the house rose in their places, I being one, and said "No." Now the proceedings record that item as carried, but it will be observed that the discussion proceeded after that, I along with others being under the impression that the item had not carried. It will also be observed that subsequent to that report in Hansard and the chairman making that notation on the records of the house, the Postmaster General himself stated that he was to give the same evening information in connection with the estimates, all of us being under the impression that the item was still before the committee.

If that is the last item in the estimates it means that we shall have no further oppor-

[Mr Speaker.]

tunity of discussing the question, owing to a mistake in the records of the house. I do not know what can be done to change it, but I hope that the Postmaster General will have no objection to allowing the matter to be reopened at a subsequent date.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman will have the most ample opportunity for further discussion when the bill founded on the resolutions is in committee of the whole and in committee of ways and means. He will have the most ample opportunity to discuss any item in the estimates that he may desire.

Mr. HEAPS: That is not the point. What I am trying to point out is that the chairman of the committee, perhaps through some misunderstanding, claimed and put on the records of the house that this item had carried when in fact it had not carried, and the discussion proceeded just as though the item had not carried.

Mr. SPEAKER: As pointed out by the Prime Minister, the hon. member will have ample opportunity later to address himself further to the item. The item was carried on June 1, and is properly so entered in the proceedings as taken down by the clerk. And the Hansard report verifies the record kept by the clerk.

Mr. HEAPS: But on a point of order may I point out—

Mr. SPEAKER: It is out of order to speak further on the subject. The hon. member will have ample opportunity to discuss the matter before the committee. Meantime the records of the house will stand as they are.

Mr. HEAPS: But what I want to point out, if I may—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HEAPS: On a point of order, is it not possible that in noting the proceedings of the committee the chairman of the committee himself may have made a mistake?

Mr. SPEAKER: In this case he is correct.

Mr. HEAPS: If it is correct can you inform me why the discussion continued after the item was carried?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. VENIOT: If I may be permitted a word regarding that question, I think it was wrong to say that the item was carried.