

Question of Privilege—Mr. Boudria

Mr. de Corneille: The reason I stopped—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will resume his seat.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I have received two notices of questions of Privilege. I must deal with them in the order in which I received them. I will recognize the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria) on a question of privilege.

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PRIVILEGE

MEMBERS' ACCESS TO PARLIAMENT

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. If you deem that I have established a *prima facie* case of privilege, I am willing to move the appropriate motion.

It is a long established parliamentary principle that Members of this House are to have unimpeded access to Parliament when the House is in session and that anyone attempting to obstruct this access could be found in breach of the privileges of this House. Erskine May, in his *Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament*, nineteenth edition, states the following:

—on 6 June 1780 the Commons resolved, "That it is a gross breach of the privilege of this House by any person to obstruct and insult the Members of the House in the coming to, or the going from, the House, and to endeavour to compel Members by force to declare themselves in favour of, or against any proposition.

Mr. Speaker, this issue involved the High Constable of the City of Westminster in the year 1780.

Yesterday at 12.25 p.m. I was temporarily denied access to Parliament Hill when the RCMP escorting the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) limousine stopped the House of Commons green buses from accessing the Hill because the Prime Minister's limousine was travelling on the same roadway.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Boudria: I have informed the Sergeant-at-Arms of this situation as well as the RCMP who blocked the roadway in question. I ask for your guidance, Mr. Speaker, and as the custodian of the rights of Members of this House to ensure that this kind of action is not repeated.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: Why don't you guys shut up and listen to him.

Mr. Boudria: In closing, I want to remind you that similar issues have been raised in this House. On May 27, 1981, such an issue was raised by the late Tom Cossitt, M.P., and the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants (Mr. Nowlan)

raised such an issue on May 21, 1981, on the floor of the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): I rise on the same question of privilege. I will speak very briefly. It is a time-honoured privilege of Members to have free and unlimited access to the precincts of Parliament. In citation 105 Beauchesne mentions the definition of parliamentary precincts which have never been deemed to include the grounds surrounding the buildings. Once outside the buildings, security and control of access is a matter more directly under the control of the executive branch of the Government. The RCMP does provide security on the grounds surrounding the precincts of Parliament. The Hon. Member will know that security is a matter of real concern in this day and age. The RCMP are doing a very worthwhile job of providing that security.

The RCMP did not stop the Hon. Member. They stopped the bus. There is nothing precluding the Hon. Member from getting off the bus and walking—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member could have used another device or could have asked the bus driver to take another route. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether this is not—

Mr. Boudria: That's not true. Why don't you say the truth in this House. That is a bunch of nonsense. You are abusing my privileges as a Member. That's ridiculous and you know it is.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Boudria: If you do not know what you are talking about, why don't you sit down.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Boudria: It is that kind of arrogance that gets everyone upset.

Ms. Copps: He should have floated on Ray Hnatyshyn's hot air.

Mr. Speaker: I had hoped that perhaps at least when questions of privilege were raised in the House we could stay calmer. Has the Hon. President of the Privy Council (Mr. Hnatyshyn) finished his arguments?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand this. The fact is that the Hon. Member was not prevented from carrying out his duties and responsibilities. There was a very understandable delay in terms of the bus route but, as I pointed out earlier, this is not a breach of the Hon. Member's privileges. It is an understandable and justifiable security