

I spoke to the person in charge of moving to tell him that I could not be there on the 3rd, that you were out of the country and that I did not agree with that waste of money. I therefore said that I would not take part and that I would contest the legality of expelling me from my office and spending \$10,000 for nothing. And I said: When the Speaker gives me an order by letter, then I will know whether the Speaker of the House is there to represent not the three party whips but all members equally. Who can claim office space for me based on my seniority of a member first elected in 1984? No one, because the Bloc and independent members are not recognized.

The Speaker of the House must make this request. He must defend me. He did not do so as far as I can see. I want to know. I talked to Mr. Riedel, who is in charge of all physical arrangements on the Hill, on Friday and said to him, "On Monday, I will ask the Speaker of the House whether he will defend my rights as a member in the same way as others. We will wait till Monday." He said, "Very well." And he is supposed to be in charge of all physical arrangements. He agreed to wait until Monday to be able to talk with you. Now without warning, on Sunday morning, they moved, paying the movers, telephone installers and fax installers overtime. Everything was moved under special surveillance, it seems, with extra staff. Those are unacceptable expenditures! It was moved to another place on Wellington Street and I was even offered to have everything redone if I kept quiet—to have the carpets changed, to have painting done, extra walls put up and so on. I do not accept that.

• (1510)

I ask who authorized this move because I received no letter from you. If the authorization came from the Chair, well, you acted in a partisan way to the detriment of my rights and privileges as a member, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: First of all I listened very patiently to the hon. member whose office was moved from one to another. I am prepared to discuss the matter with the hon. member, or any other hon. members, but I have to advise the hon. member that it is not a question of privilege. He may or may not have a complaint. It is a matter of administration and there is quite a lot more to the story than we have heard and I am prepared to discuss that at another time, and that is the end of it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plamondon: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but it is not a question of privilege. The matter is closed in this House.

Mr. Plamondon: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member on a point of order.

Mr. Plamondon: In that case, Mr. Speaker, forcing my door without my permission and taking my confidential files—how is that not a question of privilege and how are my rights—

Mr. Speaker: Once again, I am sorry, but it is not a point of order.

[*English*]

A point of order is something that rises out of the rules of this place. This is an administrative matter and will have to be settled one way or the other to the member's satisfaction or otherwise, but not in this Chamber.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8) I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 39 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Madam Speaker, I have the privilege and the honour to present a petition signed by 173 Canadians. Most of the names were collected on the VIA run between Truro and Halifax a week and a half ago. The petitioners call upon Parliament to support the NDP plan to restore VIA Rail services, cut on January 15, 1990, maintain and where appropriate upgrade remote services on which many Canadians rely. They do not think train service is a laughing matter. They ask as well for a legislative mandate for VIA Rail, and to make available the resources it needs to become a modern passenger rail system in a class with those throughout the rest of the western world. This petition is also signed by a number of residents of Cape Breton who attended the Sydney East Richmond annual general meeting of the NDP.