

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

chairman of that committee. Members of the committee were only permitted to ask questions in order of rote; there was no opportunity for other Members of Parliament in attendance to ask questions. As a matter of fact, at twelve o'clock sharp the chairman of the committee informed all present that the period for asking questions was now terminated, and this robbed me and other members who were in attendance of the opportunity of asking questions with regard to negotiations. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries has a responsibility to look out for the interests of Canadian fishermen and he did not carry out his responsibility.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (3:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Wahn:** On the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, it is untrue to state that the proceedings at that committee meeting were controlled by me.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** Were they under control?

**Mr. Wahn:** The procedure at that meeting was agreed upon by the steering subcommittee of the external affairs committee and confirmed at a meeting of the external affairs committee. The number of members from each party to be called upon was agreed upon at both those meetings and it was not imposed by me. In point of fact, a number of members of the opposition parties were called upon in accordance with the decision made not by the Liberal chairman but by the steering subcommittee representative of all parties and the external affairs committee itself.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hees:** Untrue.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Greenwood rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Brewin:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that the hon. member for St. Paul's is absolutely correct.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member for Spadina kindly resume his seat? The question of privilege raised by the hon. member for South Shore contained an allusion to the hon. member for St. Paul's who, in fairness, was allowed to make his statement. However, I do not think that hon. members really want to pursue this discussion all afternoon. It seems to me it is rather pointless. Hon. members have made their points and I invite them now to return to the work of the House.

**Mr. Ryan:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Spadina rises on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Ryan:** This is on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Crouse.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. If the hon. member for Spadina wants to rise on a question of privilege or a point of order I will hear him, of course. But I suggest to him as I have to all hon. members, that there is not much to be gained by pursuing the matter.

**Mr. Ryan:** I will make it a question of privilege, then. I was present at the meeting. It lasted two hours, from ten o'clock to twelve o'clock, and it took Mr. Kosygin half an hour to answer the first question. It appeared to be a planted question, and nobody from then on—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Battle River.

**Mr. Downey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Downey:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. It arises out of the matter I brought forward under Standing Order 43 earlier this afternoon. I am sorry that the minister in charge of the Wheat Board has left the chamber. I refer to the letter that went out from the minister's office to prairie grain producers shortly after the producers received their payments under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. My question of privilege is, was this blatant attempt to influence public opinion paid for out of public funds—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It may be a question but that does not make it a question of privilege. I had hoped during the question period to recognize the hon. member because he had raised a matter under Standing Order 43. Rightly or wrongly, in such circumstances I always try to give an hon. member the opportunity to ask a question and I fully intended to recognize the hon. member for Battle River. The question might be raised tomorrow, but I doubt if it can be raised now by way of question of privilege. Orders of the day.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### INCOME TAX ACT

The House resumed, from Tuesday, October 26, consideration in committee of Bill C-259, to amend the Income Tax Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequential upon the amendments to that act—Mr. Benson—Mr. Honey in the chair.

On clause 1—section 109: *Deductions permitted by individuals.*

**The Chairman:** When the committee rose last evening section 109 was before the committee. Section 110 has been grouped with section 109 for the purpose of debate.