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OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1966.

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2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

The honourable Member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent) raised a question of privilege to the effect that the Minister of National Defence had breached the privileges of this House by tampering with a witness in respect of the evidence to be given before a committee of this house, the witness being Rear-Admiral W. M. Landymore, the committee being the Standing Committee on National Defence, and the evidence in question being the Admiral's brief presented to the committee on June 23, 1966.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have listened with a great deal of interest to the question of privilege raised by the honourable Member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent). That honourable Member referred to one citation of Beauchesne's, and I should like to refer him to another, namely citation 104(5) which reads in part as follows: "As a motion taken at the time for matters of privilege is thereby given precedence over the prearranged program of public business, the Speaker requires to be satisfied, both that there is a *prima facie* case that a breach of privilege has been committed, and also that the matter is being raised at the earliest opportunity."

I should also like to refer the honourable Member to page 378 of May's 17th edition where the following is stated: "The matter must be raised at the earliest opportunity. A matter of privilege which claims precedence over other public business should be a subject which has recently arisen.

"The older rulings applied a further condition, that a matter to secure precedence must be one of urgency. But this condition seems to have been waived, and later Speakers have satisfied themselves with insisting that a matter should be raised at the earliest opportunity.

"A matter which occurred during the recess was refused precedence as a matter of privilege because it was not raised at the commencement of the session.