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OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1967

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2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

A question of privilege having been raised by the honourable Member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) with reference to the provisions of Standing Order 5, which reads as follows:

“Every Member is bound to attend the service of the House, unless leave of absence has been given him by the House.”

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I remind the honourable Member for Lotbinière that standing order 5 has, in fact, been out of date for a long time. I invite him to acquaint himself with the remarks made by Professor Dawson on page 89, of his book entitled *Procedures in the Canadian House of Commons*. The author indicates that that particular Standing Order has not been in force since the year 1877. For all useful purposes, Standing Order 5, even though never abolished, has been replaced by the provisions contained in the Senate and the House of Commons Act. That legislation provides for penalties to be imposed in cases of unjustified and repeated absences by Members. I believe that, in such cases, the provisions of that Statute prevail.

I have therefore come to the conclusion that the question of privilege raised by the honourable Member for Lotbinière cannot be considered further.

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On motion of Mr. Pilon, seconded by Mr. McNulty, it was ordered,—That the name of Mr. Leboe be substituted for that of Mr. Johnston on the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.