

are ongoing. I understand that they are proceedings under the Bankruptcy Act, that they are judicial proceedings and, in effect, court proceedings. That involves precedents with respect to the propriety of this House or any of its Committees taking proceedings parallel to any matter that is before the courts. That is a consideration that the Chair has to come to grips with.

The final area of concern is whether there are any other investigations which might be ongoing and which might be prejudiced by the work of the Standing Committee, should the matter reach that stage.

Those concerns are still outstanding. We not only still have them but they have become perhaps more emphasized. We believe this is a matter for the Chair to consider, and after obtaining advice, and quite apart from the decision on the question of privilege, determine whether at this point the House has the capacity at all to make the reference requested by the Hon. Member.

● (1510)

We would like to assist in his desire, but I think we would also have a primary responsibility with respect to the House and its committees operating within established traditions and practices and certainly within established precedents. There are those problems; we point them out now. We are certainly prepared to abide by the decision of the Chair after considering the matter.

We suggest that while our own inquiries and considerations have been confined to the time lapse between yesterday and now, it may well require more in-depth research and consideration, perhaps even to the extent of carrying the matter over the weekend until the Chair comes to a correct conclusion.

MR. BROADBENT—NOTICE OF POSSIBLE QUESTION TO BE RAISED

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Our House Leader will deal with the matter that has just been discussed, but I am pressed by time and I hope the House will listen briefly to the matter of privilege to which I want to refer.

The "blues" have not yet been sent to Hon. Members, but I want to serve notice that in light of what the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said in the House earlier today, and subject to checking the "blues", I will quite possibly be raising a question of privilege later.

Committee Reports

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF TWENTIETH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

[*Editor's Note: For above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

[*English*]

Mr. Lambert: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If this is the report dealing with Bill C-143, I would ask whether it includes a transcript of all evidence taken by the Committee to date. There is no way that the House can accept a report which is deficient in the evidence that was taken. Otherwise the report is meaningless. Amendments in the House must be based upon evidence. Unless it is included in this package, it is out of order for the Vice-Chairman of the Committee to file that report.

Mr. Peterson: Madam Speaker, I would humbly suggest to the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), that there is ample precedent in the Chamber. I could refer to the matter at length should it be a matter of dispute. Therefore, I do not accept the premise he stated, but I would like to say that I have been informed that the entire evidence has been placed before the House. I must say that this has been at great expense to the people who have done the work. That Committee sat until two o'clock on Wednesday morning. It sat again this morning for an hour and a half. We all owe a great debt of thanks to those people who worked expeditiously to ensure that this evidence was before the House.

Madam Speaker: In answer to that point of order, I advise the House that we have had the statement of the Hon. Member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson). I may say that the House is simply receiving the report. Unless the Hon. Member for Willowdale presents the complete evidence that must accompany the report, the Chair has no way of knowing that the report is complete. I point out to the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) that the House is simply receiving the report. I believe the objection of the Hon. Member refers to proceeding with a Bill without all the evidence being produced so that Members may consult it. But certainly the House may receive the report; I see no objection to receiving it today.

Mr. Lambert: Madam Speaker, I have ascertained that in so far as obtaining printed copies of Committee hearings are concerned, they are taking anywhere from four or five days to seven days to reach Hon. Members. In this particular case, the report having been filed now, it would be within our power to