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OTTAWA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1967.

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11.00 o'clock a.m.

## PRAYERS.

## RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Yesterday at the end of the question period the honourable Member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) rose on a question of privilege regarding a statement made in the course of a question posed by the honourable Member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson). At that time I asked the indulgence of honourable Members to give me an opportunity to study the record. Having done so I am now in a position to make a judgment.

Yesterday, in addressing a question to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the honourable Member for Red Deer referred to the conduct of the honourable Member for Lapointe. Whereupon, the honourable Member for Lapointe requested the Chair to consider whether there was a breach of the privileges of this House when the honourable Member for Red Deer made certain allegations with respect to the honourable Member for Lapointe.

It would appear to the Chair that the question raised by the honourable Member for Lapointe is in essence a point of order rather than a question of privilege. It seems to the Chair that the words used by the honourable Member for Red Deer were unparliamentary and should not have been used under the guise of a question addressed to the Ministry to formulate a charge, however indirect it may be, against another Member of this House.

Our precedents are clear and of long standing. In this regard I can do no better than cite a portion of a well-known ruling by Mr. Speaker Michener which is recorded at pages 583 and 584 of the *Journals* of Friday, June 19, 1959, which in part reads as follows:

"It has been strongly urged by some Members that the House should not set in motion its power to try and to judge the conduct of a Member unless such Member is charged with a specific offence. It is urged further that not only must he be charged, but that he must be charged by a Member of the House of Commons standing in his place.