

*Privilege—Mr. Rompkey*

examine what I have said this morning and give notice if they want to raise it again.

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise because, in the hon. member's point of order under the guise of a question of privilege, he insinuated that three cabinet ministers may have had some part in authorizing this raid or search warrant or whatever—the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) or the Solicitor General (Mr. Lawrence) or me. Your Honour has more or less exonerated the Solicitor General.

As I have said several times outside this House, I had nothing to do with turning it over to the RCMP in the first place, or with any subsequent raids either on the journalist's premises or any thought of raiding the member's office. I wish he would stop casting these innuendos as he is so fond of doing in this House.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** I have a notice of a question of privilege from the hon. member from Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Rompkey).

MR. ROMPKEY—STATEMENT OF MINISTER MADE OUTSIDE HOUSE

**Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises from a press release issued by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. McGrath) on the salmon policy. This announcement was made outside the House on a very important question. I regret that the minister had to leave before I had an opportunity to raise this matter, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say at the beginning that I do not lay this at his door. We all know that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is a man of the House of Commons. I know it was not his intention to make the statement outside. But I do want to say to the people who did have the authority to make this decision that we on this side find it very regrettable.

It is a peculiar irony, Mr. Speaker, that the time allocated to the minister for the announcement was deleted so that there would be more time available to debate the freedom of information legislation. We feel that our rights, and my rights particularly as a member of Parliament, have been infringed. We on this side have not had an opportunity to question the minister on this very serious matter indeed.

● (1240)

I am glad the minister has returned. I want to reiterate what I said earlier—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member will know, as I extended to the hon. member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), that to allow him to go on would be generosity in the extreme. The right of any minister to make statements either inside or outside the House is absolute. The precedents are quite clear.

[Mr. Speaker.]

The matter does not found either a point of order or a question of privilege.

This question has been raised many times before. If the minister wants to take a very brief moment to equal up the time, I suppose that is only fair. In fact, it is clear that that choice, while it may give rise to a grievance, does not give rise to either a point of order or a question of privilege.

MR. SARGEANT—PROPOSED RCMP SEARCH—INQUIRY AS TO AUTHORIZATION

**Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to comment on what the Minister of National Defence (Mr. McKinnon) said a minute ago. I was not casting any innuendos or accusations; I was merely asking a question. It seemed to me in this regard that those were the three ministers who might have been the ones who directed this investigation. I thank him for telling me that he indeed did not do it; that answers one of the questions. Your Honour told me that the Solicitor General (Mr. Lawrence) did not do it either. I was merely asking the question. I was not making any innuendos or drawing any inferences.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Fifth report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Clarke.

MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

First report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates—Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[English]

### PETITIONS

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL HATCHERY CAPACITY FOR SALMON STOCKS

**Mr. Don L. Taylor (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from 200 residents of Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands who are concerned about the low levels of Chinook and Coho salmon in the Cowichan River. The petition requests that additional hatchery capacity be built in the Cowichan River in order to replenish the stock which is so