

Transport and Communications

was so much better than this one that I wish the words I am now talking about had stayed the way they were.

I have said enough, but I have a sub-amendment which I would like to move. Hon. members may feel that this subamendment will only complicate matters, but I feel that if we are going to be asked to make this decision, we should be logical. We should carry through and state clearly what follows from the amendment that is now before us in the name of the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. So, to make it clear what the house is being asked to do, I move seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis):

That the amendment be amended by adding at the end thereof the following words:

"and that the members of the said standing committee be discharged, since the passing of this motion, as amended, constitutes a vote of non-confidence in the said members".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The Chair has some reservations about the amendment and wishes some time to consider it.

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, without any doubt whatsoever this has become one of the most overblown issues of this session. It is interesting to observe the actions of some hon. members in the opposition. Very often they contest committee reports, but they happen to agree with this one so they want to blow it up into a vast political issue. Let us consider some of the statements that have been made in this debate. It has been suggested that a loyal group of members of parliament from all parties in this house toured the maritimes and came back earnestly determined to make a report which would be made available to the House of Commons. What are the facts? Many of the key members of that committee were not even present at the committee meeting because they had other responsibilities in the house.

An hon. Member: Some excuse.

Mr. Perrault: What were their names?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) just made a [Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

statement that is not in accordance with the facts, and I would ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. Perrault: Sit down and listen, then perhaps you will get some information that is really factual.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I challenge the hon. member.

Mr. Perrault: We have had so much maudlin chit-chat—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. It is the tradition of this house for hon. members to speak in accordance with the facts. I charge that the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour just now made a statement that is not true, and I ask him to either back up that statement or categorically withdraw it.

Mr. Perrault: If the hon. member will remain in his place instead of engaging in these antics—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): There is no question of privilege. The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour has the floor.

Mr. Perrault: What about the meeting of March 17? The following are the Liberal members who were absent from the meeting: the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Mahoney), the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin), the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) and the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault), replaced by: the hon. member for York West (Mr. Givens), the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand), and the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Lesard). The members of the Conservative party who were absent were the following: the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) and the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan), replaced by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) and the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Peddle). Also the hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin) was absent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador on a point of order.

Mr. Peddle: The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour suggested that a number of key members were absent at the time the decision was taken. I should like to ask of you, Mr.