

Daubney), Niagara Falls (Mr. Nicholson), and London East (Mr. Jepson), for their timely interventions in this important matter.

[Translation]

After hearing these Members, especially the Chairman of the Committee, the Hon. Member for Ottawa West (Mr. Daubney), and after due consideration, I must repeat what I said following comments by Hon. Members on November 26, namely that "the Chair is really not in a position to interfere with the affairs of the Committee . . . I want to re-emphasize that, generally speaking, Members with a complaint should go back into the Committee and sort it out there."

[English]

For further clarity, I refer all Hon. Members to a previous ruling I made on November 18, 1987, which is found on page 10930 of *House of Commons Debates*, and I quote:

Previous rulings and parliamentary custom are quite clear. Committees are definitely in control of their own procedures. In this respect, I may refer Hon. Members to Beauchesne's, Fifth Edition, Citation 569(3), which reads as follows:

The Speaker has ruled on many occasions that it is not competent for him to exercise procedural control over the committees. Committees are and must remain masters of their own procedure.

• (1510)

From these and other citations quoted in that ruling I thus feel that the precedents are clear and, with regret, I cannot find that the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) made out a prima facie case of privilege.

This matter may or may not merit further consideration but it should be first raised in the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General. It is in that forum that the Hon. Member should pursue the issue and ask the committee to report the matter to the House. In this respect I refer all Hon. Members to the debates of April 28, 1987 and May 5, 1987 when a situation involving a committee matter was reported to the House following which Members raised a question of privilege thereon.

The Chair has taken this opportunity to review several of the recent matters that have been raised in the House that relate to events in or around the committees of the House. I have told the House before that the Speaker has been somewhat tolerant because the new rules were made permanent just last June. It was, I think, predictable that the new committee system would experience some growing pains. In every case that I have reviewed since last June, every question of privilege on a committee matter probably should have been raised first in the committee.

The reason I mention this in this ruling is that I am increasingly concerned with the time consumed by the House on committee problems that now are fully within the Members' own reach and control. I regret that I must serve notice to all Hon. Members that unless there is something of extraordinary seriousness I will be less disposed to allowing

Tabling of Documents

debate on such matters unless a committee has first reported thereon.

The reform of the committees has conferred upon them larger mandates and greater powers. With that reform comes the responsibility and the challenge for committee members to deal with issues within the new parameters of the redefined committee system.

I would like to add, and this is only by way of a suggestion from the Chair which might prove to be helpful to all Hon. Members, that perhaps Members, when they are carrying out their duties in committees, could go that extra mile to ensure that the sensibilities of fellow committee members are taken into account. If that is kept in mind, then some of the matters that have come before the Chair might well be able to be resolved with perhaps much less dispute and much less time consuming debate.

I thank all Hon. Members for bringing these matters to the Chair. I hope that we can keep in mind the necessity that the Chair is bound by the rulings and the precedents and that Members will try to resolve these matters in committee. There is always a possibility of some extraordinary matter happening and, of course, under those circumstances I would want to look very carefully at that. I am not saying I would never take an application under those circumstances, but I would ask the co-operation of Hon. Members, the co-operation of the chairman and members of committees to resolve the matters there.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

DISABLED AND HANDICAPPED

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table in both official languages a further comprehensive response by the Government to the initial report of the subcommittee on the disabled and the handicapped.

You will recall that the Government responded initially to the subcommittee's recommendations on June 30, 1986. At that time we undertook to respond with additional information. That information is contained in this document in considerable detail.

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PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr.