

Aboriginal Rights

Mr. Watson: When I was chairman of that committee we approached the educational problem in a non-partisan way and we came up with suggestions that were non-partisan. In fact, they were quite critical of the government. I also suggest that we produced results because of that non-partisan approach. The whole idea at the time was that we stimulate public opinion and force the government in the right direction. If we are to use the committee system effectively, we will have to get away from this fooling around with politics in committee.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do so because the hon. gentleman raises questions with respect to proceedings in the committee. The other night in that committee the only person who raised matters in a partisan way was the hon. gentleman and his colleagues in the Liberal party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. That is a point of debate; it is not a point of order.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I want to deal with the particular point that the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) has raised. I submitted at that meeting that an invitation to a prime minister of a province—

Mr. Peters: Premier.

Mr. Watson: He calls himself prime minister. I submitted that any invitation sent to a prime minister of a province should at least be submitted in a way that would have assured success. What is the point of inviting somebody to a meeting if you know from the beginning that he is not going to be able to accept your invitation?

Mr. Peters: You may know that.

Mr. Watson: Every member of the committee should know that the Prime Minister of Quebec could not accept that invitation.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was a member of the House present at that committee meeting. I assure you solemnly, Mr. Speaker, that to the best of my knowledge no other member, with the exception of the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Watson) could possibly have known that the premier of Quebec would refuse that invitation. I would suggest—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock p.m., this House stands adjourned until Monday next at two o'clock p.m.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.