

*Immigration*

not do so until it had been discussed in caucus and until it was introduced in the House of Commons. I always said that until that was done I would not comment on it or make any release to the media.

In this particular instance there was obviously a leak. This particular document is translated into some 13 different languages, and with the numbers of people who have to be involved in that kind of thing I am surprised that the leak did not come out a little bit sooner. I apologize for that. I wish that it were possible to stop it.

On the one hand we have the opposition saying we are too secretive, and on the other hand that now we are opening it up.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I have welcomed the work performed by all members of this House and by the general public in finally bringing forth the special joint committee report. I think I have paid significant tribute to it, as has my predecessor, by adopting some 40 of the 45 recommendations made by that special joint committee. This could not have been done without the co-operation referred to by the hon. member. I hope that kind of co-operation will continue. As a courtesy to him and to other opposition critics I gave an advance comment on the press words about two o'clock so that they would be in a position at three o'clock to answer the press and be as fully informed as it is possible to be. I thought that was a form of co-operation that might have been accepted by the hon. member.

I apologize for the fact that there was a press leak but I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that what I heard on CBC to the effect that it was a press release is dead wrong. I am just as upset as the hon. member is that this particular information was made available publicly before the bill was actually introduced in the House.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for his candid remark in respect of this matter and for admitting he knows, as a member of the class of '68, that this sort of thing is looked upon with a very sad eye. Given the fact the minister has admitted there is a leak in his department—

**Mr. Cullen:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am not admitting there was a leak in the department.

● (1520)

**Mr. Alexander:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Let us say that the minister admitted there was a leak. I think he would like to get to the bottom of this because unquestionably he will be bringing in other bills and statements, and he must protect himself as well as protect this institution. So I now move, with the consent of the House, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), that the matter of the leak regarding—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is an admirable try on the part of the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) but I think we should get back to the schedule of business which is the introduction of bills, under which this bill on

[Mr. Cullen.]

immigration was introduced. I recognized the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) on a point of order which related to the introduction of bills and to the circumstances surrounding it. The minister replied, and then the hon. member for Hamilton West intervened in the discussion, but that in no way opens the way for the introduction of motions, which is not provided for under the Standing Orders at this time.

**Mr. Alexander:** With all due respect, and I do respect the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully submit that perhaps you did not hear me because of the noise in the Chamber. I asked for the unanimous consent of the House to move that motion, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Alexander:** I do not intend to carry on with this matter, but knowing that hon. members are very concerned about this sort of matter I hope that having asked for unanimous consent they will approve my motion, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's East.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the hon. member did seek the unanimous consent of the House, he did it very quietly.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** I respect his assessment of it. If in fact, while he had the floor, he sought the unanimous consent of the House to present a motion to the House, I presume the House should be able to respond as to whether or not the hon. member has unanimous consent for the introduction of such a motion.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** But this was a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), as I understand it, wishes to discuss whether it was a question of privilege. The matter was not raised as a question of privilege, it was raised as a point of order.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move a motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 26.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is premature.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I have been interested as a member of parliament, and coming as I do from the class of '57, in the fact that in the last two days we have listened to a number of discussions as to whether or not the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) should pre-empt time on television to make the broadcast which he wishes to make