We are governed by the rule of law and I do not have authority to do what might be a very good idea to give me authority to do. However, I do not have it at the moment.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, to add to the point you just made, when there was a disturbance in this House some months ago, you felt that perhaps the most appropriate way to deal with it would be to refer the matter to an appropriate committee. This in fact was done, the details were looked into and discussed among members and other witnesses. I wonder if it would be the appropriate thing to do in this case as well.

The point is that when there are disruptions in terms of innocent citizens before their Parliament Buildings, I think it is something of concern to us all. For that reason, I just wonder if it would be appropriate to refer the matter to the appropriate committee for consideration and report back to the House.

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I rise in my capacity as co-chairman of the Joint Senate and House of Commons Committee on the Scrutiny of Regulations, particularly in response to the comment of the hon. NDP House leader.

As the hon. member for Burnaby indicated, the committee has already looked at the public works regulations which were brought into place by the Minister of Public Works and which were the subject of my friend's comments.

The committee has in fact already advised the minister quite clearly that the committee's view is that those regulations are totally unacceptable and unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker: I am also bound by the rules. This is a matter of debate. It may be a matter for Question Period. However, it is not something that I can interfere with. I do not think I have the authority even to go as far as the hon. member for Kamloops has suggested, that I refer this matter to a committee. The committee is the master of its own proceedings and can take the matter under consideration if it wishes.

As I say, I will do what I can do. I will discuss it with members of the Board of Internal Economy because undoubtedly security and all such matters, not just within the building but outside the building, are of very grave concern to us.

Mr. Wappel: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has heard my comments. I will listen for a moment.

Mr. Wappel: I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that in my view one committee of this House is already seized of the matter. My point was just to indicate that the particular committee of which I am the chairman is already looking into it.

I also wanted to make the point that the minister wrote to yourself, Sir, in September 1990 and now we have an arrest outside the House in March of 1991. With great respect, we are still waiting for a response from this place.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I rise just for clarification. You indicated in your response to the member for Burnaby that you were not responsible outside the walls of this building.

Could you advise the House and the people who are watching who in fact has the jurisdiction relative to the policing of the grounds of the House of Commons? Which minister has responsibility or which organization has responsibility for that?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may have that question and he may have further questions. He may certainly come and see me and I will discuss it with him, but I think we are getting far beyond anything that I can justify under the rules.

RESPONSE OF MINISTER

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my personal concern arises out of a question which I asked toward the end of Question Period. It was a question directed to the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds.

I do not consider that the question was frivolous or that it lacked substance. However, I say with the greatest respect that I do not believe the hon. minister was given sufficient time to provide an answer.