

leges and elections where the matters that have been discussed and raised by almost all members who have participated can be dealt with.

Therefore, I have no hesitation, under the circumstances, to say that in my opinion the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River does, in fact, have a prima facie case of privilege and the House ought now to decide on the disposition of that prima facie case of privilege in the terms of the motion he has put forward, which is as follows:

That all articles contained in the July 24th, July 25th and any subsequent editions of the *Montreal Gazette* relating to the conduct of the member for Kenora-Rainy River vis-à-vis the November 18th budget, including most especially the allegation that the said member had advance knowledge of the said budget and conveyed that knowledge to businessmen, and the discrepancy in the editing of the *Gazette's* purported transcript of the proceedings of this House as compared to the report in the House of Commons Debates, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

In that motion, I presume the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River is supported by the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Ethier). I suggest the House ought to take a decision. There is a question of whether or not the members ought to be called in before the House takes a decision on the matter, or whether it is possible to simply put that question to the House now.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in respect of our procedure from this point on. In view of the fact that this motion is debatable, it seems to me it would only be fair for members to have copies of it in their hands. The fact that two other members have indicated motions they would like to move, in different terms, may result in one or the other of them wishing to move an amendment to the motion in the name of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid).

I therefore suggest to the House that we use the time between now and one o'clock on something else, perhaps Bill C-66, and that the debate on the motion of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River be postponed until two o'clock.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order arising out of your remarks in which you were separating my position from that of the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin). I would also like to make abundantly clear that there is a separation between my position and that of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid). At no time had I had any private conversations whatsoever with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner), and any intuitions that came to me came simply from observing this chamber and the course of the debate.

● (1240)

Mr. Speaker: I am dealing, now, only with points of order. Standing Order 17 requires that in such a circumstance the question shall be put forthwith. I am prepared to delay it on the suggestion of the hon. member, but that is the only question to which we are addressing ourselves at the moment, whether we should proceed forthwith, whether the debate should commence now, or whether it should commence at two o'clock.

Order Paper Questions

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I would like you to consider very seriously the following question, and I will be brief. If this matter goes to committee, and if we are to accept what the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Reid) said, namely, that he intends to take action—I assume in a high court—then I want you to consider very carefully, sir, as the head officer of this chamber, whether there can be an investigation going on in the committee at a time when legal action is being taken in a high court of the land.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I simply rise to indicate my general support for the suggestion brought forth by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I think it would be proper to resume the debate on this motion at two o'clock.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I simply rise to seek clarification from you of the terms of reference that you indicated. I presume that under the general clause in the terms of reference, the committee would also have the power to send for persons and papers relating to this matter, and that this would be added. If so, sir, I merely seek clarification, as well, in respect of those terms of reference, as to whether they would also give the committee the power to send for Cabinet ministers as witnesses before the committee, so that they could give the facts in relation not only to themselves but also to the people for whom they have a responsibility.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps those are considerations that should be taken up privately among members between now and two o'clock. Those are matters to which consideration should be given and on which there should be consultations, and at two o'clock the House can see what motion might be presented to the House for consideration at that time. Is the House agreed that the matter be taken up at 2 p.m.?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,336, 2,478, 2,542, 2,577, 2,578, 2,675, 2,683, 2,748, 2,863, 2,864, and 2,906.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.