

*Concurrence in Committee Report*

**Mr. Klein:** The committee met in Toronto with the Indian chiefs of Ontario, and the hon. member for Skeena was not there. We suggested a trip to Caughnawaga, and the hon. member for Skeena said he could not make it on a certain day last week, so we did not proceed with the trip until the hon. member for Skeena was able to make it. We did this because we wanted to rely on the experience the hon. member for Skeena has in matters of this nature. But to use this occasion to play that kind of politics is something that the country ought to know about.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Klein:** We ask that this motion pass. It is the intention of the committee to divide itself into small committees and visit as many communities as possible throughout Canada. While we are laying blame I must mention the co-operation I have received on this committee from the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale), for which I compliment him. He has been present at every single meeting. I am not asking him to do so, but I think he will bear me out when I say that at numerous steering committee meetings the hon. member for Skeena never presented himself, never came to the meetings, and when he did come he apologized for being late.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the only way I can do this is by way of a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Skeena now rises on a question of privilege.

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

**Mr. Howard:** I do that, Mr. Speaker, because it is the only way I can get the floor to refute what are a number of untruths.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The only way the hon member can rise now is on a legitimate question of privilege. He cannot tell the Chair that he is using this as a subterfuge to carry on a debate. If he has a question of privilege I will hear him out.

**Mr. Howard:** I would not presume to do things by way of subterfuge, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Howard:** The chairman of the committee indicated that I never attended steering committee meetings. The one I missed was on December 7. I have a note of it here. I missed that because notice of the meeting came to my office late in the morning and the meeting

was to be held at three thirty o'clock that day. I did not have the opportunity and time to attend that particular meeting.

The hon. member accused me of not wanting to go to Toronto in order to meet with some people there. I was unable to go, and got in touch with my colleague the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, who went in my stead, to make sure that someone would fully represent us at that particular meeting. With respect to the meeting to be held at Caughnawaga, the hon. member said it was not held because I could not go on a particular day. I would point out that the committee went to pains to ask whether I would be available to go at a particular time and I told the committee, in full view of the chairman, who was there and heard it, that the committee should not make its plans to make visits rotate around my ability to go, that if they wanted to go they should make the plans and I would try to fit in with them.

The hon. member also made reference to the fact that I had not objected to the committee calling a vote with regard to the itinerary which the hon. member for Timiskaming placed on the record. I point out that I was the only member in the committee who objected to that, and when the vote was taken I said I wanted to record my vote against the particular trip because they were one hour visits. I was followed by the vice chairman agreeing with me and the hon. member for Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie (Mr. Watson) who when asked the same thing agreed that it was the wrong type of thing to do.

When the chairman of the committee points out that one of the reasons the committee has not been able to function properly is because of its conflict with the northern affairs committee.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the government house leader rising on a point of order?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully suggest that what the hon. member is now doing is taking a second opportunity to debate the subject matter of this motion, and he is not dealing with a question of privilege. He has not mentioned any question of privilege so far in his remarks.

**Mr. Peters:** The Speaker will decide that.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, I realize the desire of the house leader to protect his members who are in error—

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