

Privilege, Mr. McGrath

a prima facie question of privilege requiring a motion which would then be put to the vote. If the motion were agreed to by the House, it would then naturally be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

In view of the precedents, the Standing Orders of the House and the books pertaining to the proceedings of the House to which I have referred, I doubt whether it would be possible for the Chair to say that there is a prima facie question of privilege.

[English]

The hon. member for St. John's East, in the notice he supplied to the Chair and in the explanation he has given, states that the chairman of the committee, the hon. member for Laurier, adjourned the committee sitting at five o'clock yesterday, thus preventing the hon. member for St. John's East from asking on a point of order that the sitting be extended beyond five o'clock. The hon. member further states that as a consequence of that action he was denied an opportunity to oppose an item in the supplementary estimates which concerns the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. The hon. member has taken exception to that proceeding and seeks to move that the conduct of the chairman of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

As hon. members know, this is not the first time that certain aspects of proceedings in committees have been brought to the attention of the House by way of a question of privilege. I refer hon. members, for example, to rulings reported in *Votes and Proceedings* for January 12, 1972, and also in *Hansard* on another occasion, Friday, March 3, 1967, at page 13697. On the basis of the precedents to which I have alluded and on the basis, also, of citations and the Standing Orders, the ruling of the Chair has always been that such matters cannot be resolved in the House under the heading of privilege.

● (1410)

It is well established practice that committee proceedings cannot be brought into consideration or debate in the House except by way of a report from a committee. If a point of order or a question of privilege should arise in a committee, it should be settled there rather than by way of an appeal to the House. Hon. members are also referred to Citation 295(1) of *Beauchesne's* Fourth Edition which reads in part as follows:

On July 24, 1956, an appeal was taken to the House from the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, and the Speaker ruled that the chairman's ruling should be settled in the Committee and not reported to the House.

This ruling led to the enactment of Standing Order 65(11) which, as all hon. members know, reads as follows:

The chairman of a standing or special committee shall maintain order in the committees; deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the committee; but disorder in a committee can only be censured by the House, on receiving a report thereof.

Essentially, the hon. member for St. John's East, by way of question of privilege, would propose that the conduct of another member ought to be the subject of an investigation by the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. It is a long established practice, as I have said, that the conduct of another member cannot be subjected to the

[Mr. Speaker.]

scrutiny of the House by way of a question of privilege. On this point I refer hon. members to the well known and often quoted ruling of Mr. Speaker Michener reported at page 584 of the *Journals* of June 19, 1959. Also, I have always had serious doubts as to the advisability of having proceedings in a committee investigated by another committee of the House.

For all these reasons the Chair must rule that there is not a prima facie case of privilege, so the motion proposed by the hon. member cannot be submitted to the House at this time.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AZORES EARTHQUAKE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity under Standing Order 43. In view of the disastrous earthquake on the island of Pico in the Azores, where some 1,500 homes were destroyed, I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Madill):

That the Minister of Manpower and Immigration do send a special team to the island to take in and process applications from refugees who wish to immigrate to Canada and that the government do such things as may be appropriate to assist the government of Portugal in alleviating suffering.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion proposed by the hon. member for Peel South. Under the terms of Standing Order 43 this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent and the motion cannot be put at this time.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

DESIGNATION OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister tell the House whether, when the technical advisory committee on petroleum supply and demand was established by the government, he designated a specific person to represent his department