

Mr. Speaker: I remind the hon. members who are rising that I will recognize the hon. member for Surrey North on a question of privilege, which takes precedence.

* * *

PRIVILEGE

HEALTH AND WELFARE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SENIORS AND STATUS OF WOMEN

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, my privileges have been breached by the premature leaking of parts of the reports on health care to be issued by the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and Status of Women, prior to it being tabled in this House.

Also the Liberal health critic, the member from Winnipeg North, told the press that "all parties have given their support to the report". However, he knew that the New Democratic Party and I did not support the Tory-Liberal majority report, that I had voted against the report, and that I would be issuing a minority report.

This misrepresentation of my position caused me embarrassment and forced me, in order to set the record straight, to breach House conventions and release my minority report at noon although the French translation was still not available.

This premature release of the parts of the report, the misrepresentation of the contents of the report and my position prevented me from carrying out the proper duties as a member of this House and therefore breached my privileges.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there is a question of privilege pursuant to the rules as set out in Beauchesne's as well as in the Standing Orders.

There has been no notice given to this side with regard to this particular question of privilege. However, if the Chair wishes to take it under active consideration, perhaps at some point in the near future we may have an opportunity to revisit this particular argument and accept interventions from this side.

Privilege

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has raised by way of a question of privilege certain things that emanate from a committee.

It may be premature for the Chair to consider whether or not it is privilege. I will take it under consideration. The hon. member may want to consider my comment.

For the moment, though, I would like to move on. I have another question of privilege.

CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also rise to basically give notice of privilege or potential privilege at this time.

As the House is aware there were media reports this morning indicating that the office of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers was wire-tapped during the last round of collective bargaining.

As the member of Parliament of the New Democratic Party responsible for labour issues, I was in constant contact with that union, and I would worry—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Murphy: Despite whether other members of this House consider it an important issue, my personal communications as a member of this House were potentially violated by the fact that there was a wire-tap occurring. My conversations as a member of this House were important in terms of my speaking in this House, in terms of my communicating and my negotiating.

I would raise this as a notice at this time because if there were a wire-tap conducted by Canada Post, the RCMP or CSIS, certainly my rights were impinged upon.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that the laws on wire-tap in this country are very clear. If there has been a breach of the law, the appropriate authorities should take care of it.

I want to lay to rest any allegation that Canada Post in any way, shape or form tapped any phones during that period. I just did not want that accusation on the record.