Boucher Macdonnell (Muskoka-Bowerman Ontario) MacInnis Bracken Bradshaw McKay Brooks McMaster Burton MacNicol Campbell Manross Caouette Marshall Casselman Matthews (Kootenay Castleden East) Church Menary Daniel Merritt Diefenbaker Miller Drope Moore Fair Murphy Ferguson Nicholson Fleming Pearkes Fraser Probe Fulton Quelch Gillis Robinson (Bruce) Ross (St. Paul's) Graydon Green Ross (Souris) Hansell Senn Harkness Skey Harris (Danforth) Smith (Calgary West) Stanfield Henderson Stephenson Herridge Stewart (Winnipeg Hlynka North) Hodgson Stokes Irvine Strum, Mrs. Jackman Thatcher Jaenicke Johnston Timmins Kidd Townley-Smith Knight Tustin Knowles Webb Kuhl White (Hastings-Lennard Peterborough) Lockhart White (Middlesex Low McCuaig East) Wright McCullough (Assini-Zaplitny-90. boia)

Mr. BLANCHETTE: I was paired with the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. COTE (St. Johns-Iberville-Napierville): I was paired with the hon. member for Grey North (Mr. Case). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr. HATFIELD: I was paired with the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Gariepy). Had I voted, I would have voted against your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McLURE: I was paired with the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Dionne), Mr. Speaker. Had I voted, I would have voted against your ruling.

Mr. HEON: I am permanently paired with the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Lapalme), Mr. Speaker. Had I voted I would, with great regret have voted against your decision.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, if it is any consolation to hon. gentlemen [Mr. Speaker.]

opposite I would say to them at once that, being most anxious to see this committee appointed as soon as possible, I promise I will not take up too much more of the time of the house this afternoon. So I hope that without its being found necessary on my part to raise any question of privilege or point of order I may be permitted to continue my remarks without being interrupted too freely from the other side of the house.

Obviously, having regard to the amount of talk—if that is not an unparliamentary expression—to which we have been obliged t listen for the last week, I cannot attempt in a short time to do more than give illustrations of the sort of argument that has been presented by hon, gentlemen opposite, and to which I am expected to reply.

In the first place, I would say that in following the debate I have not been able to discover anything that was too small for hon. gentlemen opposite to take exception to; and, after saying that, may I make the further assertion that I cannot think of anything they have brought forward thus far as to which, if we had brought it forward, they would not have found an equal amount of argument to present on the opposite side. They were determined at all costs to make it as difficult as possible to have this committee appointed. They were determined to make a display before the country of several days of obstruction of the government to have it appear that the measure the government was bringing forward was not in the public interest.

As an illustration of what I have said about nothing being too small, let me direct attention to the first clause in the motion I presented for the appointment of the committee which reads:

(a) the causes of the recent rise in the cost of living.

That word "recent" has been just too much for hon, gentleman opposite. They had to take exception to it. I was astonished at the number of members who did so, and particularly at some of those who took that exception. When this house reassembled at the beginning of the new year, my hon, friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) rose in his place and said, as reported at page 543 of *Hansard* for this year:

... I wish to move, seconded by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) the adjournment of the house under standing order 31, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the sudden and unprecedented rise in the cost of living.