

committee rise, report progress and ask leave to have this document tabled. But in light of the fact that this might cause difficulty I think I should ask the committee to appeal the decision that Your Honour has made.

The Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East has the floor. There may be another opportunity for the hon. member for Peace River to move the motion to which he has referred, but at the present time the hon. member for St. John's East has the floor.

Mr. Baldwin: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I rose on a point of order to start with.

Mr. Basford: Who is talking of the rules of Parliament now? This is disgraceful conduct.

The Chairman: Order, please. I do not think there can be any quarrel about this. It seems to me that the hon. member for Peace River has gained the floor on a point of order for the purpose of moving a motion. There may be other opportunities for him to move the motion, but it seems to me he cannot take the floor on a point of order to move the motion.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, you are quite correct, but I think that Your Honour will agree that I first rose on a point of order when the hon. member for St. John's East made his statement. On that point of order Your Honour made a ruling. Under those circumstances, I initiated the discussion. I submit, with all due respect, that I am entitled to appeal the decision that Your Honour has made.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, if I could speak to this matter for a moment I may be able to find a way out of this impasse.

The Chairman: The hon. member for Peace River may find an opportunity to move the motion, but I have indicated that the hon. member for St. John's East has the floor; and as long as he has the floor I think I must acknowledge his right to speak.

Mr. Baldwin: With due respect, Mr. Chairman, I must appeal your decision not to allow me to appeal your decision.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, my intervention, which you so rightly ruled you would hear, was to suggest that perhaps the committee, which is master of its own conduct within the rules of the House, might wish to give me unanimous consent to table this document and in that way comply with the Prime Minister's request.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Chairman, it would appear that unanimous consent is not forthcoming. I regret that this is so. The hon. member for Gaspé, for example, should be as interested as anyone in getting this report. He comes from one of the most disadvantaged areas in the country. For that reason I would hope the committee would recon-

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sider its refusal and through you give me unanimous consent officially to table this document today.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Chairman, I rise on the same point of order.

For the information of the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) I must tell him that all members received copies of the document in today's mail. There is therefore no need to make an issue of—

[*English*]

Mr. MacInnis: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Gaspé said "all members". This is not correct. I have not received any such copy. With regard to the ruling given by the Chair, I wish to seek guidance from the Chair. How will the committee of the whole operate in the future if Beauséne's rules do not apply? We are in committee of the whole. It appears that in disallowing the argument advanced by the hon. member for Peace River the authority of Beauséne is no longer applicable in committee of the whole. Is this committee to operate without the rules of Parliament?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): There is an appeal.

The Chairman: The Chair does not want to reiterate the ruling. Hon. members may not agree with it, but as I indicated earlier I am aware of no procedure whereby under the circumstances which we have tonight in committee of the whole a document can be tabled.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, you have made a ruling, it is your right to make that ruling and I respect it. But I also respect my rights and the right of any other hon. member to appeal that ruling. I raised a point of order to start with. It was my point of order on which the discussion was initiated. Your Honour, in the breadth of your discretion, disallowed my point of order. I am now appealing your refusal to accept the point of order which I raised. Surely when I raise a point of order and Your Honour decides against it, I am entitled to appeal that decision.

The Chairman: I think the hon. member for Peace River is quite correct. The point which the Chair tried to make was that when the hon. member gained the floor on a point of order to appeal the ruling, the hon. member for St. John's East had the floor. The hon. member for St. John's East concluded his remarks, I gave the floor to the hon. member for Peace River subsequent to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Gaspé, and I now take it from the hon. member's remarks that having obtained the floor quite properly in the sequence of events, he is appealing the ruling. If I am correct in that, I think the hon. member has the right to appeal the ruling. Of course, under the rules the appeal will be submitted to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: Your Honour is correct. You can consider that the appeal has been made and that the machinery has now been launched.

Mr. Boulanger: That is what I call mockery of the House.