HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 5, 1964

The house met at 11 a.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. NIELSEN-REFERENCE TO RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, may I raise a very brief question of privilege having to do with Your Honour's ruling yesterday on the two points of privilege raised. The precedent set by Your Honour's decisions yesterday gave me a good deal of concern, and for the future I should like to refer Your Honour to Beauchesne, fourth edition, 1958, page 57, where at the foot of the page in a very brief paragraph these words appear:

The Speaker's jurisdiction does not extend to words outside the house.

There is a reference there to May's Parliamentary Practice, thirteenth edition. I simply draw these words to Your Honour's attention because of the rather far reaching implications, in my view, that arise out of Your Honour's decisions yesterday on the two questions of privilege that were raised.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for bringing this to my attention. Obviously I have not had a chance to read the reference he has just made, but I would point out that my quotation yesterday was from the sixteenth edition of May, and I believe he has referred to the thirteenth edition. However, realizing the importance of this matter I should like to take it under consideration and try to prepare a legal brief for my own satisfaction, if not the house.

Mr. Nielsen: For the future guidance of members, when that brief is prepared would Your Honour inform the house?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. The point is important and in order to render general satisfaction, I hope, I will be very glad to do so.

MR. RONDEAU—RECEIPT IN MAIL OF OBJECTIONABLE LITERATURE

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I want to protest most strongly against the insidious, foul, pernicious and deceitful propaganda, entitled "Quebec 1967, a Canadian province or a clerical state", by Reverend Wilson Ewin, a Baptist minister of Jarvis street, Toronto, which we received in this morning's mail. That document, Mr. Speaker, is the most insulting I have read to date about the French Canadian nation, the Roman Catholic religion and the Roman Catholic clergy of Quebec.

In the name of all our Roman Catholic institutions, our clergy, our French Canadian entity and our Canadian history, I protest, and I want it to be known that I totally disagree with those comments, which can only be harmful to good understanding in Canada. [Later:]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. Does he intend to inquire into the hate literature which is being distributed through the Post Office Department, as for instance the pamphlet sent by Reverend Wilson Ewin and which we received today in our offices?

[Text]

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

D-DAY

ANNIVERSARY OF LANDING OF CANADIAN FORCES IN NORMANDY

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago tomorrow the men of the armed forces of Canada, along with the troops of our allies, assaulted the beaches of Normandy, beginning the end of a war that had tortured this world for five long years. I am sure that all members of this house want to take a few moments to recall and honour the heroism of the men who participated in that historic day, the longest day for all of them and the last day for many.