

*Point of Order—Mr. Dick*

Donald) concerning the excellent program called Open House Canada. The minister alleged that I was misinformed on the policy of his department regarding that program, believing that CP Air had been selected to provide transportation for the young participants in that program. Knowing the integrity of the minister and his wish to provide true and correct information in the House, I think that he did not have the information and that he misled the House.

My information is that the civil servants who are responsible for that program left it to CP Air to approve all applications for reservations from groups wanting to travel in Canada, and that the company should share with Air Canada in all fairness.

Now, Mr. Speaker, always according to the information I have, from July to November 1979, CP Air transported 54 youth groups compared with 22 for Air Canada, in western Canada only, namely to the cities of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I feel the minister did not answer my question, and that is why I ask that the whole matter be referred to the Committee on Communications and Culture in order to obtain clarification of this case.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the House would prefer to wait until the minister has had the opportunity to take part in the discussion.

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[*English*]

**POINT OF ORDER**

MR. DICK—REQUEST FOR COPY OF BUDGET SPEECH

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order which may be a question of privilege. It seems to me that this afternoon people from the media will be going over budget documents which will be seen later this evening, and indeed the spokesmen of the various parties will have that opportunity as well. When we come to the House this evening, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) will be on his feet and by about 8.10 p.m. everybody in Canada will know the highlights of the budget which will have been broadcast on their television set.

The practice in the past has been that members of the House do not receive their copy of the budget until after the minister has spoken, and although this party was in the opposition last time, we requested copies of the budget speech so that we could read it along with the Minister of Finance and perhaps mark our copies. I wonder whether Your Honour, through consultation with the House leaders, might see whether or not we could have copies, which we normally get in the lobby after the budget speech is made, placed on our desks. We would not open them until the Minister of Finance starts to speak, but we could follow along and mark our copies on the points we think are valid and important.

[*Mr. Bujold.*]

Perhaps the government House leader might respond to this, but I see he is not here at present and that is why I am addressing you, sir, as the person who is the custodian of the privileges of members. I think it is an important point and I wonder if Your Honour might see whether or not there is some concession that can be made.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member may be making a very worth-while suggestion, but it is not my responsibility. The document remains the possession of the government, the Minister of Finance and the government House leader. If they wish to distribute it in some way, that is their responsibility not that of the Chair.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*English*]

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

TABLING OF REPORT, 1978-79

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Acting Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as the Acting Minister of Finance and pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), I now table a report in both official languages entitled "Public Accounts of Canada" which details the financial transactions of the Government of Canada for the fiscal year 1978-79.

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**PRIVILEGE**

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Ethier) rose on a question of privilege relating to the application of the Official Languages Act as it dealt with the publication or preparation of a report by a special caucus committee of the Conservative party in the matter of agricultural studies. As I understand, the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell is seeking recognition from Your Honour on a question of privilege, and I rose in order to indicate that I will follow his intervention in order to join in that particular question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have no notice of any question of privilege. The hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Ethier) raised a question of privilege on which I decided yesterday, both in respect of the practice of using government funds to support committees of one caucus and also in respect of the risk that that entails. The way in which I dealt with it yesterday was that that activity entails a risk of producing a report which has been publicly funded or supported and yet retains its identity as an internal document, and therefore faces the conflict of the requirement that since it was partly funded with public moneys it should be produced in both official languages. Because of that risk, I indicated that I thought the practice was most unwise, but I did not found a