

Privilege—Mr. Taylor

possibility of any further discussion on this point, but there is one thing which has not yet been elucidated in connection with this matter.

Madam Speaker: Yes, I have. I said the Chair was sufficiently informed on this question of privilege, that I reserve the matter, in order to examine it and make a ruling. I am afraid I cannot hear the hon. member on this same question.

Mr. Oberle: Madam Speaker, I rise then on a new question of privilege. I will not even make reference to the document in respect of which you will make a ruling, the ruling that you made yesterday or the decision you have made today. My question of privilege is simply that I received through the mail today in the course of this afternoon a document addressed to my person at my office address, addressing me as a Liberal member of Parliament.

Mr. Fox: That is a privilege!

Mr. Kempling: That is an insult.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Oberle: If you have any difficulty in deciding this—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid if I listened to the hon. member on that kind of question of privilege I would be listening to a number of other members.

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should like to thank you for reserving your decision on my question of privilege. I should like to record in *Hansard* that I have supplied all the staff documents stating that there were no citizenship certificates granted. I have turned that information over to *Hansard*. They have all the documents for your perusal.

MR. TAYLOR—APPOINTMENT OF "TWIN MEMBERS" IN CERTAIN WESTERN CONSTITUENCIES

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which is based on one of the axioms of democracy, namely, that when a member is elected he has a responsibility to all the people of his constituency, not just to those of his own political party persuasion. This is a very important matter. Once a member is elected and is responsible to all the people of his constituency, he is responsible also for making sure he does his utmost to see that their tax funds are not abused or wasted.

● (1550)

That is the basis of my question of privilege, and I would now like to give the reasons why I feel it is a point of privilege. In the first place, the constituency which I represent has now been informed that they have a second MP.

An hon. Member: That is a lot of rot.

Mr. Taylor: I can understand why the hon. member is getting nervous. That second MP was apparently appointed from the office of a minister, the Hon. Bud Olson. The Hon. Bud Olson also has a staff member in that office who is responsible for finding and appointing twin MPs to western constituencies. If the public is paying the Hon. Bud Olson to spend his time as a minister to twin MPs, it is an abuse and a usurping of the rights of the elected member and interferes with his work in the constituency.

Secondly, the office of the minister has been making a lot of statements on how wonderful it is that we have a helper in our constituency. The people of my constituency have not asked that their MP be given a helper. During the election they considered all candidates and they voted accordingly. They expect their member to be their member, irrespective of what party he or she may represent. Consequently, I suggest that this is a very serious matter of privilege.

The next point I would like to raise for your consideration, Madam Speaker, is with regard to whether or not public funds are being used for these twin MPs. I find that when I go to my constituency it costs me a considerable amount of money. I must use my car, take rooms in hotels and advertise that I will be in such and such a place in order that I may serve my constituents. I am asking whether or not the twin MP will be paying these expenses out of his own pocket as does the elected MP, or does the twinned MP have another source of funds?

I might say that if this was simply a matter of the Liberal Party of Canada appointing someone to help build up the Liberal cause in a constituency, I would have no objection. That is their proper right. But when a minister of the Crown uses public money to build up the image of a particular party, that is an abuse of the privileges. I would like to know who is paying the hotel, advertising and car transportation expenses for these twin MPs.

I understand that these twin MPs will send out a great many letters. Will they be able to use the frank, which is the privilege of the elected MP, in order that he may serve his constituents? I have never asked anybody in my 40 years in public life how they voted. If they come to me for service I endeavour to serve them to the best of my ability, knowing sometimes that they are not of my particular political stripe. However, they are Canadians and are entitled to service from their elected member. If the twin MP will have the same privilege as the elected MP, then I suggest it is an abuse of my privileges.

Also, I have no evidence of this but if the letters of my constituents or the letters which I send to ministers of the Crown, whom I respect as representatives of Her Majesty the Queen, are not respected as confidential, I would regard it as a very serious abuse if that information were to find a pipeline into a twin MP's office. That would be a serious abuse of democracy.

I will not enlarge on this matter, but I say that the appointment of twin MPs to an area is a totalitarian concept, a travesty of democratic principles and a betrayal of the rights in which we believe. I also request that the Liberal party is