

recognized the chairman of any committee. The committee reports to somebody and if the report is made it falls under the direction and control of some department of the Government. While it is well to have a committee responsible to the House it would be a matter of convenience and of better procedure if that committee were regarded as being under the supervision of some minister so that we would have the report presented to the House in the regular way.

Mr. BUREAU: The House should control it.

Mr. McKENZIE: It would be better to have the report presented by a minister or the Speaker, and make the procedure a permanent part of the machinery of the House. It is not like the ordinary reports of committees. This restaurant is likely to continue to be a part of the equipment of the House of Commons. It might be well to understand that it comes under the control of some minister. I have a recollection that when Dr. Pugsley was Minister of Public Works he used to exercise some control over the restaurant as being a part of the Public Works connected with the building. I am not very strong on that point but I think we used to look to the Minister of Public Works as the man who had control of the Public Works and consequently control of the restaurant. I am not sure but that is my recollection.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the recollection of the hon. gentleman is hardly accurate on that point. One of the things that Parliament has always been more or less sensitive about is that the control of this building shall rest entirely with itself. The committee dealing with this matter is a joint committee of the House of Commons and the Senate, the same as the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Printing. As a matter of policy, and in order to procure the best service, it does seem to me that it would be wise for hon. members to take a keen and active interest in the welfare of the committee and in the proper operation of the restaurant. It could not only be a comfort to members of the House and of the Senate if properly carried on, but it could go a very long distance towards making it convenient for hon. members to remain on duty in the House for many, and long hours and sometimes very late hours.

Mr. McMASTER: Hear, hear.

Mr. SPEAKER: One of my purposes in not remaining as chairman of the committee was that hon. members should feel the

[Mr. McKenzie.]

responsibility resting upon themselves to try and have the restaurant more efficiently conducted.

Mr. BUREAU: I would suggest that the report made by the committee should be submitted to the House before it is finally acted upon, posted up, and becomes law. If that were done there would not be so much dissatisfaction. The restaurant of the House of Commons ought to be a credit to the country and if it costs a few dollars more let members put up the price and give them a chance to fill up if they feel like it. It is not a question of economising or saving a few dollars. We are going to have a fine large room, the view is superb, but what is the use of bringing a stranger there if they are going to give him something that he cannot eat.

Mr. BELAND: Let us pay for the scenery.

Mr. BUREAU: Let us pay for something that we can put inside of us. If we are going to use it as a smoking room, well and good but if it is going to be so that no hotel table in Canada can equal that of the Parliamentary restaurant then let them charge for it and let us pay.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that perhaps we may have the machinery and the working of the restaurant perfected by another session. The proposal of the hon. gentleman that there should be an amendment of the rules of the House which would call for a report of the committee on the restaurant being submitted at a certain stage of the proceedings of the House in order that hon. members might discuss it properly is worthy of consideration.

Mr. BUREAU: Let us have the amendment.

Mr. PROULX: I do not share the opinion of my hon. friend from Three Rivers. If prices are increased it will be another reason for members to advance for asking for an increased indemnity. I think it would be cheaper for the country to keep to the present indemnity and not increase the prices in the restaurant.

Mr. BUREAU: I am glad I do not share your opinion. I am proud of it. If you think that the indemnity is enough for you then you are welcome to it. It is not enough for me.

Mr. PROULX: I do not want to discuss at any greater length the question of whether at any greater length the question of