

Motions for Papers

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, when you state that there is no question of privilege, you do not even take seriously the hon. member for Lotbinière, who is well known as a public joker, wherever he goes.

I shall therefore conclude my remarks, since I have no more time to lose on him, and I shall resume discussion of the matter—

Mr. Choquette: National jester.

Mr. Caouette: —of the question raised this afternoon.

Mr. Choquette: You are really an international jester.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the question of privilege, and this is well-founded, according to standing order 17.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I recognize the hon. member for Lapointe who intends to rise on a question of privilege, and I should invite the hon. member for Villeneuve to resume his seat while the hon. member for Lapointe rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, there are standing orders in this house; we have a book of standing orders. Now, they provide that when an hon. member wants to speak, he should stand up and take off his hat. The hon. member for Lotbinière violates those standing orders. I do not say he should take off his hat, because it would fall on his shoulders, or rather, it would not even stand on his shoulders. But he breaks the standing orders of the house when he speaks from his seat and mouths stupidities, as he has been doing for some time.

Therefore, I would ask you to call him back to order and to point out to him that if he intends to speak he must rise and be recognized, which he does not do.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Villeneuve is chewing gum; this is contrary to standing order 12.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. May I invite the hon. members to co-operate with the Chair and other hon. members, so that we might proceed with the study of the question now before the house.

Mr. Caouette: Let us leave the hon. member for Lotbinière to his clowning, as usual.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, let him continue to act the buffoon—

Mr. Choquette: You are an interplanetary buffoon.

[Mr. Choquette.]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I asked the hon. member for Villeneuve to co-operate with the Chair and to accept my suggestion that he should confine his remarks to the motion under consideration, and I am sure that he will do so.

Mr. Grégoire: You should also call to order the hon. member for Lotbinière.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I will respect your ruling, but I would like you to call the hon. member for Lotbinière to order, because he is always interrupting us.

Coming back to the matter under discussion with regard to the motion introduced by the hon. member for Lapointe asking for the production of papers showing the moneys collected and spent in the provinces, I feel that the hon. member for Lapointe is not talking through his hat. He knows what he is talking about, because he is aware that such a report exists.

In addition, we read in the papers a report which was denied of course by the Minister of Finance, to the effect that the minister is very much annoyed at the report submitted by his high officials and which points out that for a very long time the province of Quebec has not been treated as it should.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat that it is not only the present administration which is to blame; the previous one carries its share of the responsibility.

The leader of the official opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) was in office for six years and, during that time, not only do we feel that less money was spent in Quebec, but the money collected there was used to pay western farmers, at election time, to nab people's votes, to try to win seats. This was done on three occasions.

Now, today we are insisting, and we shall keep on insisting, that the motion for papers proposed by the hon. member for Lapointe be implemented. Even if it is rejected, we shall keep on demanding the tabling of those documents, not at the country's expense, but to find out exactly what is going on.

If the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Pennell) tells us that it is not the procedure or the custom to make public communications between officials and ministers, we believe that the people who pay the taxes in Canada, that the citizens of the province of Quebec and the other provinces who pay federal taxes, have the right to know the truth as far as taxation is concerned, and the whole truth. I do not think that one should play hide and seek, as has been done before and as they are trying to do at this time.