

Point of Order—Mr. Nielsen

whether or not he feels that it can be published without any injury to any matters of public interest.

On Monday, October 31, I wrote to the Speaker asking that the ruling on this question be delayed because of my involvement with the federal-provincial trade Ministers meeting on that day and of my inability to be in the House. At that time, in a letter, a copy of which I had sent to the office of the Leader of the Opposition, I also explained, upon perusing *Hansard*, that it had become obvious to me there was confusion in the House between two telexes, both of which had referred to conversations between our High Commissioner in Barbados and the Prime Minister of Barbados.

I think, so that the matter can be properly examined by the Chair, it was important and is important that that distinction be made. There were a number of questions in the House in relation to the discussions that had taken place on the Friday prior to the invasion between High Commissioner Noble Power and Prime Minister Adams, and whether what had been said constituted in effect any warning to Canada of the possibility of an invasion. I was concerned with rebutting that suggestion, and as a consequence I had in the House, though I did not read from it, a subsequent telex that had been sent by Noble Power after the invasion when, at my instructions, he had gone to see Prime Minister Tom Adams to ask for an explanation of why Canada had not been informed. The other telex was not in the House nor in my possession.

The words that need to be examined to determine whether anything was said or done by me that would warrant an order for the telex to be tabled would refer—

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Regan: I am on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is a point of order before the House raised by the Hon. Member for the Yukon. The Chair would like to hear the rest of the Minister's statement and will be pleased to hear the Member for the Yukon as soon as he sits down, if that would be in order, before passing judgment on the matter.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I would—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: Throw him out!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect the Hon. Member for the Yukon, would he please sit down?

The Chair would like to establish the practice, when a point of order is raised, of hearing the statement of the initial person or the initial response, as in this case, and after a period of time in which to investigate the facts, turning in an orderly way to other Hon. Members who obviously are concerned about the matter. With the permission of the Hon. Member for Yukon, the Chair would like to do that in this case.

Mr. Pinard: He is on a point of order.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I will rise on a question of privilege, if necessary.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has recognized the Minister, and the Chair will certainly recognize the Hon. Member for Yukon as soon as the Minister has completed what the Chair hopes will be a short statement.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Pinard: The Minister is on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair will certainly recognize the Hon. Member for Yukon as soon as the Chair has had an opportunity to analyse, to listen, to what the Minister has had to say. The Hon. Member for Yukon's rights will be scrupulously observed. But the Chair would like to hear the rest of the Minister's statement.

Mr. Nielsen: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Go ahead, you have the floor, Gerry.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Nielsen: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I understand it is the practice of the House to hear a matter of privilege at any time, bearing in mind that a point of order is under discussion. The Hon. Member for Yukon is rising on a matter of privilege. The Chair will hear him on a matter of privilege.

Mr. Nielsen: I will be very, very brief, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: You can't be brief.

Mr. Nielsen: Yes, I can be very brief if interventions will cease and if I might—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Yukon has been recognized and the Chair is listening attentively. Will the Hon. Member make his point of privilege, please?

An Hon. Member: Turn on the microphone for him.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I would love to make my point of privilege if the jackals over there would just be calm for a moment. My question of privilege is that the privileges of all Members of the House are affected when, under the guise of a point of order, a Member, or worse, a Minister of the Crown, reflects on a ruling of the Chair. Madam Speaker made a ruling with respect to the production of the document, which is now being reflected—

An Hon. Member: That is not a question of privilege.