

debate in this house I would have had nothing to say, although I still should have thought it pretty strong language. But I take very strong exception to the use of this language by one who is setting up a committee on human rights and fundamental freedoms, which of all Senate committees should be approached in an absolutely unbiased and non-partisan way. I am not saying for one moment that there was anything personal in what the honourable senator said, and I think I know what was in his mind and what his explanation would be; but in my opinion there is no explanation for so biased and partisan an approach.

I could not act on a committee the approach to which has been couched in these words, and so with deep regret I would ask that my name be withdrawn from that committee.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, is it your pleasure that the name of the honourable senator from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis) be withdrawn from the special committee on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Hon. Mr. David: With regret.

Some Hon. Senators: Agreed!

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I think the speech of the honourable senator—

Some Hon. Senators: Order!

The Hon. the Speaker: The honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity is out of order. There is nothing before the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Is there not a question of privilege before the chamber now?

The Hon. the Speaker: No.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I wish to call attention to Rule 47:

Any senator conceiving himself offended, or injured in the Senate, in a committee room, or any of the rooms belonging to the Senate, is to appeal to the Senate for redress.

I feel myself both offended and injured, and I claim the right to state my position before the house, and now, on a point of privilege. I was charged with partisanship.

Hon. Mr. Haig: On a point of order—

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Yes, on a point of order. I am only arguing the point of order.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, you have heard the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity read Rule 47. Do you agree that the honourable senator should now have the right to appeal to the Senate for redress? Do you consent that he so appeal now?

Hon. Mr. Haig: No. On the point of order: the honourable member—

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Allow me—

Hon. Mr. Haig: Please be seated. I am on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I have not finished my point of order.

Hon. Mr. Haig: You have raised the matter of the rule. The Speaker has asked for the opinion of the house, and on that I have the right to speak.

The honourable member for Toronto-Trinity made a speech in the house. The honourable senator from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis) called the attention of the house to a statement in that speech, and asked to withdraw from the committee. She did not make any charge against the honourable member. What she referred to was his own statement, and he stands by it. There was no charge against him; therefore he has no point of privilege in this house. Debates will never end if we allow a person to get up to reply to somebody else. I reiterate that a point of privilege does not lie, because nothing is alleged against the honourable gentleman. The honourable senator from Peterborough simply said "because of that statement in the speech I want to be off the committee." That is all.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I want to finish what I have to say, and I have a right to speak to the matter of privilege and the rules. I am not replying; I am speaking, as I have the right to do, in reply. Your Honour did not hear me—

Hon. Mr. Horner: The honourable senator should sit down when the Speaker rises.

The Hon. the Speaker: I think the point of order of the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) is well taken. He says that what was read by the honourable senator from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis) is what was stated by the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). Unless the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity now says that what he is reported to have said in last Monday's debate are not his words, that is, that what he said is other than as he has been reported, I do not believe that Rule 47 is applicable. To repeat the words of a senator as reported in the house does not constitute a grievance.

Hon. Mr. Reid: On this point, while it is true that the honourable senator from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis) rose on a question of privilege—and I am not entering into the merits of the matter—she rose on the Orders of the Day, and in effect made a motion.

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, she rose on a question of privilege to make a request.

Hon. Mr. Reid: It was a motion to take her name off the committee. The motion of