

of Labour about it. The hon. member keeps speaking about this case as if the Minister of Labour were an accused. The Minister of Labour is the one who asked me to initiate the investigation with the RCMP.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Allmand:** He asked for the investigation. The Deputy Minister of Labour asked for an investigation. I decided to show the interim report, which was not a police report but an interim report in the form of a letter, to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should have preferred advising the Chair of my intention of raising the question of privilege, as requested by the Standing Orders, but before doing so I wanted to check in *Hansard* for yesterday the oral question I put concerning the exportation of cereals stored in eastern elevators.

A copy of *Hansard* was given to me by an employee of the Commons just before I came into the House, that is around five minutes past two, I was unable to check it earlier and to advise the Chair of my intention of rising on a question of privilege. I therefore beg the Chair to understand my situation.

My question of privilege stems from the fact that the Chair felt that the question I put to the Minister of Justice yesterday, concerning feed grains and exports of cereals from eastern ports, would not be such as to harm the domestic market in eastern Canada, and that steps will be taken to prevent such exports being made to the detriment of the farmers in that area of Canada.

I looked very quickly in *Hansard* to find out whether the government had answered such a question asked by Quebec or Maritime members. I did not find any such question or answer. Since that situation occurred last year, I merely wanted to be assured by the minister that this would not happen again.

In addition, as a member from eastern Canada and more particularly from Quebec, I feel it is my duty to obtain that assurance from the minister responsible for feed grains in order to protect the interests of farm producers and consumers. Even if the strike of the grain inspectors has ended, can the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board assure us that the domestic needs of eastern Canada will have priority and that the grain now stocked in eastern elevators will not be exported to the prejudice of our domestic needs?

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The short and most direct answer I can give now is that, despite whatever merits the hon. member's presentation today may have, there scarcely can be any other way I could regard them except as a request in some way to reconsider a decision that I made during the question period yesterday. I gained the impression yesterday that the question he was asking at the end of the question period was basically the same question that had been asked by the Leader of the Opposition and by other members of that party supplementary to the question of the leader at the beginning of the question period. If by any shade of opinion the hon. member is

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concerned about that, I certainly cannot consider any reconsideration of that position. However, there is nothing to prevent the hon. member from posing that question at a subsequent question period.

**Mr. Ellis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. It requires an answer from the Solicitor General. Because of the long question of privilege preceding mine, the minister left the chamber. I would like to be recognized for the purpose of asking it tomorrow. My question of privilege is not only on behalf of myself because of an investigation that I underwent, but on behalf of any other member of the House who may well have been investigated. Why was an interim report not tendered to me or any other members who may have been mentioned?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Allmand:** On the question of privilege, the other day the hon. member raised some questions. I said I would get the answers for him. I have the answers here. I do not know if I would be allowed to read them in the House. It appears that the hon. member for Hastings was not investigated as a possible accused, but was approached as a witness in a case. He was interviewed by the RCMP as a witness and not as an accused.

**An hon. Member:** What about the Minister of Labour?

**Mr. Allmand:** As I stated earlier, the Minister of Labour had requested an investigation. I was reporting to him and the Prime Minister. There were no allegations of any wrong-doing made against the Minister of Labour. If the investigation had been into the Minister of Labour, he would not have got the report.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Hastings has raised a question of privilege to which the Solicitor General has made a very valuable contribution. In light of the difference between the two cases, I must hold that the hon. member for Hastings does not have a prima facie question of privilege.

• (1520)

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege that concerns the business of the House.

My colleague from Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert), was referring to pages 1883, 1884 and 1885 of *Hansard* for yesterday, and to his question, as reported on page 1890, dealing with feed grain, stating that the supply of feed grain for the eastern market must be given priority over exportation.

Your Honour ruled then, and I do not object to your decision, that this question had already been asked.

Yesterday was an opposition day, when most of the speeches were made in French, so that we have received the official report—and this occurs very rarely—after 2 o'clock, so that my colleague could not give notice he was going to rise on a question of privilege, as prescribed by the Standing Orders.

He raises the question of privilege at a time when the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr.