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JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

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OTTAWA, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1967.

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11.00 o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS.

The honourable Member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) having raised a question of privilege relating to proceedings concerning the calling of meetings of the Standing Committee on National Defence.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: Generally speaking honourable Members know that by virtue of citation 324 (1) of Beauchesne's Fourth Edition it is irregular to refer to the proceedings or the evidence taken in a committee. This is a basic principle and it is only in extreme circumstances that the House of Commons takes it upon itself to refer to the proceedings of a committee.

At this time there has been a question of privilege raised by the honourable Member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill). It was not followed by a motion so that it would seem to me that at this point I could say there is no motion and therefore there is no question of privilege. However, I do consider the question raised by the honourable Member to be a point of order and I will look at the situation in that light.

The honourable Members for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Deachman) and Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Nugent), and I believe the honourable Members for Rosthern (Mr. Nasserden) and Halifax (Mr. Forrestall) suggested that this matter should be considered as an appeal from the Chairman's ruling to the Chair. It might be possible to do that if there were not specific rules in our rule book providing for a situation such as this.

The Standing Order referred to by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, namely Standing Order 68-A, is the one to which my attention has been drawn by my advisers. It states: "In any Standing or Special Committee of the House questions of order shall be decided by the Chairman, subject only to an appeal to the Committee."