

proceedings of our house, for the hon. member for Villeneuve to attempt this. I suggest that you rule out of order his attempt to read into the record what he now has disclosed to us he is about to read.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I do, that a member has never been required in the house to state he endorsed a press report. In this connection, I challenge the members for Winnipeg South Centre and for Yukon (Messrs. Churchill and Nielsen) to say that they endorse categorically and unequivocally all the press reports which their leader and themselves have read in the house in the past two years. I challenge them now to endorse them, because they will not do so.

In the past, members have always read press reports to support their arguments; it has always been accepted and allowed. I do not see why, suddenly, the Conservative members object to this procedure.

It is claimed that the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) has risen to defend the Minister of Justice. I shall reply that the Minister of Justice can take care of himself and needs no help.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

● (3:40 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. At the moment we are engaged in a debate on a question of privilege in respect of newspaper reports of statements that were made, in part outside this house to newspaper reports, by the Minister of Justice. It is, of course, obvious that the statements made by the Minister of Justice were blanket statements in that they covered several individuals. I suggest to Your Honour that the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) now intends to take part in this debate by reading a further story that appeared in a newspaper. By doing so he is actively joining with the Minister of Justice in violating the privileges of the members of this house. The house has already decided there is a prima facie case of privilege. The hon. member, in attempting now to join in the action which has been found by this house to be improper, is flying directly in the face of the rules. The Chair has the right and duty to order him not to do so.

Administration of Justice

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the story to which reference is made, but I assume it names some individuals. If it is allowed to be read into the record we shall have no means of knowing, unless the Minister of Justice summons his courage, whether these names are the ones the Minister of Justice had in his mind when he made his lamentable press report.

An hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): We shall merely be adding to the slander, if it is slander, and to the suspicion the minister aroused by making these statements without naming anyone. I suggest to Your Honour that you should prevent this from happening unless you have an undertaking from the Minister of Justice that he will immediately rise and tell the members of this house whether these are the names he had in mind.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has no knowledge of the contents of the article which the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) was about to read, but I point out to him that he would not be in order in reading statements of other people which appear in quotation marks which he would not make on his own responsibility in the house.

So far as reading newspaper articles is concerned, I should like to refer hon. members to citation 157 (3) (b) of Beauchesne's fourth edition which states:

It is out of order to read extracts in a debate if they: (b) reflect upon any proceedings or any determination of the House,—

Let me read further from citation 157 (5) which states:

It is not in order to read articles in newspapers, letters or communications emanating from persons outside the House and referring to, or commenting on, or denying anything said by a member or expressing any opinion reflecting on proceedings within the House.

May I go further, and read from paragraph (6) which states:

On the 17th March, 1933, a member quoting a newspaper in debate was ruled out of order by the Deputy Speaker who said: The rule is quite clear, that the quoting of a newspaper, an author or a book which reflects upon debate before the House, either directly or indirectly is entirely out of order, because members are here to give their own opinion and not to quote the opinion of others . . . Members may quote an article or a book stating facts, but a commentary on any proceeding or any