

*Privilege*

**Mr. Simmons:** You are making a fool of yourself, Jim.

**Mr. Hawkes:** They have been offered all kinds of possible adjustment and they refuse because they like the situation. They like to stand up in this House and complain. They do not like to run the nation. It is not their job to run the nation, but it is ours. We have the responsibility as the governing party in this Chamber to run it.

You stand up and ask me that question and I will repeat my answer. If I call that meeting this afternoon, when one of our members steps into that chair the voting control of the committee is in the hands of the opposition. That is true for seven of the 21 committees.

That is what lies behind their obstinacy. They refuse to acknowledge the principle that the government has the responsibility of governing. The opposition has the responsibility to oppose and it is an abomination of democracy for it to attempt to use one rule in the Standing Orders to control the governing part of this Chamber in one-third of the standing committees of this House.

You have not even read the rules. You shake your head, you yack, you talk, but you have to read the rules.

**Mr. Barrett:** That's nonsense.

**Mr. Hawkes:** You do not read the rules either. Okay? They are operating on a false premise.

Now you stand up and tell me that you should intervene, Mr. Speaker, and hand the responsibility for governing over to the opposition and see how long—

**An hon. member:** Shame.

**Mr. Barrett:** You lost control.

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a minute. I would say with great respect to the hon. member for Calgary West, I did not say anything of the sort. I said that the public of this country is entitled to know, and the fault may lie on both sides of the Chamber, why a committee has not got a chairman since September. One can blame one side or the other, but do not blame the Speaker for being annoyed that it has been brought to my attention, not for the first time.

The country is in no mood to put up with this kind of debate.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Tell them that.

**Mr. Speaker:** I'm telling the House that.

**Mr. Malone:** Don't look at us.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not hearing any further debate on it. It is not something I can do anything about. I can say, as somebody who has been here for a long time, for goodness sakes, get it resolved.

The fault is probably on both sides. I do not want to overdo this.

**Mr. Malone:** Don't look at us.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will look at everybody in the House. Let us resolve it. I cannot keep resolving these things. It should be resolved in the Chamber.

I can tell you when the country is in peril, to have a debate like this does not do one bit of good in getting us through the difficulties that we face.

That is the end of the debate.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Calgary West rises on a point of order. I have said that the issue is ended. I cannot intervene and I am not going to hear further debate on it. If it is another matter, of course I will hear the hon. member.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you might seek from the Chamber unanimous consent to adopt the 49th report of the striking committee?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Calgary West has put what, of course, might be a solution to the whole thing. He is asking for consent.

I put it to the House.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, we cannot give consent to adopt the 49th report because it does not fill all of the seats that have been approved by this Chamber in terms of the size of committees. That is the nub of the issue, so we cannot.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not going to use this morning to have a full debate on this. There is not consent. If there were consent, of course, it would resolve the whole issue.

All I am saying, and I should not have to repeat it, is for goodness sake, go and resolve this.

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