

*Privilege—Mr. Nielsen*

the documented budget speech that was telephotoed yesterday afternoon.

**Mr. Pinard:** How do you know that?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Because the Prime Minister said so.

**Mr. Pinard:** No way.

**Mr. Nielsen:** He said so when he was answering questions today. He admitted that the—

**Mr. Pinard:** He said he did not know.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —documents photographed yesterday were going to be altered. That is clear.

**Mr. Pinard:** That is your conclusion.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Chair, by delaying its decision, will be I suggest aiding and abetting the Government, which will have the luxury of the time between now and whatever time it takes to print those changes to set about giving effect to those changes that will be printed. That is precisely what is happening. The longer the Chair takes to make its ruling, the more opportunity the Government will have to make those changes.

The second point, Madam Speaker, is that the Chair should make its ruling on the basis of submissions made. The evidence before the Chair is all that is needed to make a decision. The Chair should not wait for any budget presentation. The Chair has indicated that the ruling is going to come down some time before six o'clock and that gives me some comfort with respect to that second point. But the first point is one which could very well compromise the decision of the Chair and place some doubt upon its impartiality—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** —if the view is taken that the longer it takes to make that decision gives the Government the opportunity to make those changes so clearly indicated by the Prime Minister today.

I urge the Chair to make the decision early. Indeed, as is often done in the practices of this place, the Chair might give some indication as to its predisposition at this point before preparing the final written ruling which will be coming down, as the Chair has indicated, before six o'clock. If we could have some idea now as to the Chair's reception of the submissions made with respect to there being a breach of the privileges of the House and a breach of the Minister's oath, that would make us rest a good deal easier on this side.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, the Acting Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Nielsen) is acting like a schoolteacher, and I find his attempt to tell the Chair how to direct the proceedings of the House entirely unacceptable. His habit of giving the Chair advice on how to act is truly obnoxious to any self-respecting parliamentarian. We have taken note of your intention to examine the arguments submitted and announce your decision in due time and you indicated that this would

preferably, and at the latest, be a little before six o'clock this evening. We are of course agreeable to this very sensible decision, out of respect for this institution and for the Chair.

The Acting Leader of the Official Opposition also brought up the lock-up of media people and Members of the House. I submit, with due respect, that this is not the concern of the Chair, and that the Chair should ignore these considerations because these arrangements are made directly by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) with the Parties concerned. There is no connection at all with parliamentary procedure or the Standing Orders of the House, and, with due respect, I again submit that the Hon. Member's urging the Chair to make a quick decision—to which we have no objection, I must admit—because of the delay this would otherwise involve in connection with the lock-up, that the Hon. Member's argument is not a concern of the House, and that it should not be given any consideration at all.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, it would set my mind at rest, and certainly those of all of us over here; and my remarks can be discounted entirely if the Government House leader would give us his assurance now that the lockup will proceed as planned at 4:30.

**Miss MacDonald:** Well?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Is he prepared to give that assurance, Madam Speaker, that the lockup will be proceeding at 4:30?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, the Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) is being very stubborn. I just said that the lock-up is no concern of the House, and now he expects me to answer one of his questions on the subject. The matter is totally irrelevant here. The lock-up is a matter to be decided by the Minister of Finance with Hon. Members, Party representatives and the media. That should be clear, it seems to me. I do not intend to argue about the lock-up. It is irrelevant, and I would appreciate no further questions being asked about the subject because I think it is a waste of time.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, the fact is that the lockup is not going ahead because that budget speech and its changes have not yet been completed and will not be completed; and the longer they have to delay until six o'clock, the better it is going to be for the Government to hide its tracks.

**Mr. Rossi:** That is your opinion.

**Madam Speaker:** Well, if ever I was in doubt as to the isolation in which a Speaker is held, I have the proof today. I had no knowledge whatsoever of the lockup taking place at 4:30 o'clock, six o'clock or any other hour. I was, rather, under the impression that the lockup was taking place at the time at which the budget was being delivered. So that my decision to