

Motions for Papers

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure we have had enough discussion on both sides, and the case has been presented.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Well, Mr. Speaker, no; because the expression should not have been used by the hon. gentleman. Notices of motions are not regarded as offensive except by those who have those sensibilities that apparently are possessed by the hon. gentleman. That statement should not have been made.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No, Mr. Speaker. The use of the expression "offensive" by the hon. gentleman is not proper; and I ask if you rule otherwise—and the ruling has been made—that gratuitous statements like that should not be allowed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I may say, Mr. Speaker, whatever your ruling, it is accepted as always by me, but that is not a proper expression.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do think the point is well taken. I am sure the hon. member will withdraw any implication that was in his answer.

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, the objection I took to the notice of motion is that in itself, by the terms it uses, it is clumsy and consequently, as I suggested, offensive. It places upon a resolution on the order paper of this house an interpretation which is inaccurate. Now, my intent is to provide the hon. member with the material for which he is asking, without accepting the clumsy or offensive terminology employed by him.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Monteith: You can't get away with that junk.

Mr. Graftey: Divine rule.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This does seem to give me an opportunity of calling to the attention of hon. members some instructions which the house has given the Chair. Answers to questions should be as brief as possible, should deal with the matter raised, and should not provoke debate. Would the hon. member withdraw so that we can get on with the business before us?

Mr. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, I am quite prepared to withdraw that part, but I should like to observe that—

[Mr. Pigeon.]

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Stewart: I should like Your Honour to assure that when notices of motions appear on the order paper, they appear in good order.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, on the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is no reason to go into a long debate on this subject. We have had a withdrawal.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: In the opinion of the Chair there was an adequate withdrawal. The point was raised that perhaps the drafting of questions or motions should be more carefully looked into, and we will do that.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, I rise because I feel there has been injustice done and I want to speak on the question of privilege. The other day—

Mr. Speaker: The question of privilege, I understand, has been resolved. The withdrawal has been made and there is no purpose in continuing discussion along this line. The question is over; it is regulated; it is settled.

Mr. Aiken: I heard no withdrawal, Mr. Speaker. There was a withdrawal coupled with an "if".

Mr. Speaker: Once more I tell the hon. member there is no purpose in continuing this discussion. A withdrawal has been made. The question is over and settled.

Mr. Aiken: Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Aiken: I have the right to speak in this house. I intend to say what I have to say, regardless of the other side of the house.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Aiken: All right, all right; as soon as I have some semblance of order from the members across the way I want to make my point. Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a new question of privilege, and it arises out of a statement Your Honour made this afternoon at the opening of the house, followed by the discussion we have just had. The other day the right hon. Leader of the Opposition was required and requested to withdraw a statement that he was not required to withdraw and which did not come within the purview of this house. The statement today did come