

Members' Attire in House

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion such a position shows irresponsibility. Before checking on the popularity of the Prime Minister, the government should look into the problem of the wheat producers of western Canada in order to help them. They should not be held responsible for the wheat situation caused by the obvious irresponsibility of the present government.

• (2:20 p.m.)

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER ON
MEMBERS' ATTIRE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before we proceed with motions I wonder whether hon. members would mind my reminding them that it has always been the practice in this house that hon. members come into the house wearing a jacket and tie. It may be that in certain circumstances and certain places a turtleneck sweater is acceptable. I suggest to hon. members that it is not acceptable, in so far as my own standards are concerned, in any event. If hon. members were allowed to make exceptions to the rule, they might eventually come into the chamber in shorts and sportshirts.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Sandals?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not pointing to any one hon. member at the present time. Hon. members will probably realize that from the chair it is sometimes a little difficult to determine exactly how hon. members are dressed and whether they are dressed in conformity with our practice. I do not wish to be difficult about this matter but I mention it in a general way and hope hon. members will agree with what I am saying. I do not suggest it is applicable today and that anyone is now contravening the rules. However, perhaps on a future day we will have the situation where someone's dress will contravene our practice in this respect, and I hope that what I have said will then be borne in mind.

Mr. Lewis: Will someone convey this to the Prime Minister?

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Since I am the member concerned, I merely wish to explain to the house that I am now receiving cobalt treatment for my throat and,

[Mr. Fortin.]

according to the physician, circumstances do not allow me to wear a collar and a necktie.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The explanation of the hon. member can certainly be accepted—I am sure,—not necessarily by the Chair, because I am here to express the wishes of hon. members. I am sure that I express the wish and the opinion of hon. members when I agree that, due to special circumstances, the hon. member is entitled to be exempted from the application of Standing Orders. The hon. member will enjoy with the unanimous consent of the house an exemption from the enforcement of Standing Orders which remain unchanged.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[English]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

TABLING OF ADJUDICATION REPORTS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Further to the undertaking given on Friday, Mr. Speaker, I should like to table copies in English and in French of the reports of Mr. W. S. Martin as adjudicator of the Public Service Staff Relations Board, for April 30, May 15 and May 16.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

RAILROAD CARS CARRIED BY
NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT FERRIES

Question No. 2,250—Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):

1. How many railroad cars were carried by the C.N.R. Northumberland Strait ferries in 1968?
2. How many of these cars were fully loaded, partially loaded, empty?
3. What is the cost charged by the C.N.R. Northumberland Strait ferry system against the C.N. Railroad Division for transporting these cars loaded or empty?
4. When were costs last increased on this service and by what amount?
5. Is it contemplated that the cost will be increased and, if so, when and by what amounts?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): The management of Canadian National Railways advises as follows: 1. 41,774.

2. 21,964 loaded; 19,780 empty.

3. The cost charged by the ferry system against the railway for services rendered in 1968 amounted to \$106,179 based on the