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JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1969.

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

The honourable Member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Roberts), having risen on a question of privilege relating to the refusal of the Government, upon his election to the House of Commons, to pay him the terminal gratuity provided as a normal practice to those leaving the Public Service.

RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have listened very carefully to the honourable Member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Roberts) who had given me advance notice of the question of privilege, thus affording the Chair an opportunity to study the matter. This, of course, is the intention and purpose of the Standing Order that provides for advance notice of questions of privilege.

At first blush I would incline to the view that it is the honourable Member's rights as a former civil servant which are at issue. He has, perhaps, a grievance against the government in that capacity rather than in his capacity as a Member of Parliament. On the other hand, honourable Members know that the House has always exercised great care in attempting to protect the rights and privileges of all its Members. Since there is some doubt about the interpretation of the precedents in this situation, I would be inclined to resolve that doubt in favour of the honourable Member.

Whereupon, Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Anderson, moved,—That the subject-matter of the question of privilege be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

And the question being put on the said motion, it was agreed to.