

Mr. BELAND: I do not remember that any report from this committee has been submitted to the House for approval or rejection or modification. Has such a report been made?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to resort to my memory. So far as I can recall, I do not think a report of the Parliamentary Restaurant Committee has at any time been submitted to the House.

Mr. BELAND: I asked the question because some very important decisions have been reached by this committee, some of which, at all events, are not entirely satisfactory to some of the members of this House. I have often wondered what opportunity we might have for offering criticism and submitting proposed modifications of the conclusions reached by that committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the opportunity could be very easily afforded by having a report of the committee submitted to the House, and then there could be a discussion on a motion for concurrence in the report. I do not think there would be any difficulty in having that done. I should point out that while nominally the Restaurant Committee ought to be presided over by the Speaker, I found that in practice it did not work out very well. It might not be amiss for me to say that while some two years ago I did endeavour to act as chairman of the committee, sometimes when I was perhaps worried over some constitutional question or some matter of emergency in the House, I would be approached by a member complaining of the quality of the butter or the age of the meat being served. I found it impossible for me to give proper attention to the work of that committee, and I therefore asked that another member be appointed chairman, and for the last year and a half I have not been present at any of the meetings of the committee, and I have not been cognizant of or had anything to do with its workings. It is a matter which should be peculiarly in the hands of the members of the House itself. I mention this merely by way of explanation, so that hon. members will realize that I have no accurate or intimate knowledge of the detailed workings of the committee.

Mr. BUREAU: Do I understand from the statement made by Mr. Speaker that an opportunity will be given to discuss the conclusions arrived at by the Restaurant Committee? As my hon. friend (Mr. Beland) has said, there is a lot of dissatis-

faction, not so much as to the food, but as to the rulings of the committee and the exclusiveness which is being attached to the restaurant. I should like to have an opportunity of voicing my views on this subject in the House. If a report from the committee is not submitted, I intend to bring the matter up on a motion for Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think hon. members will have ample opportunity to discuss the matter fully, because not only is there an item in the Supplementary Estimates for the Parliamentary restaurant, but if it is thought advisable, a report could be submitted by the committee, and a motion made for its adoption would afford a like opportunity.

Mr. BELAND: I think it would be preferable that we should have the report as soon as possible because the Supplementary Estimates may be submitted for consideration during the very last hours of the session.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall direct the attention of the chairman of the committee to the discussion here to-day and to the desirability of having a report ready to be submitted to the House.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Who is the chairman?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Steele).

Mr. McKENZIE: Money has to be voted for the Parliamentary restaurant at some stage or another. Which minister has charge of that vote?

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been the practice for the leader of the House to take charge of the Estimates for the restaurant.

Mr. BUREAU: Then we must hold him responsible for the conduct of this committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does seem to me highly desirable that the members of the committee ought to be responsible for the administration of the affairs of the restaurant, subject, of course, to the approval of the House. It is a matter peculiarly concerning the domestic housekeeping of the House of Commons itself and it is one which ought to remain within the hands of the House and of hon. members. It does not properly belong to any department of the Government.

Mr. McKENZIE: I quite agree with what the Speaker says but so far we have had no procedure of this House by which we have