

I am in receipt of a letter from a CBC official who appeared before the standing committee recently, and this letter states in part:

● (1500)

It was agreed at the March 18, 1975 hearing of the committee that since Mr. Marke Raines, MP stated that he could not respect the confidentiality of the reply, it would not, following his own wishes in the matter, be sent to him.

The clerk of the standing committee concerned has confirmed, after I placed a telephone call to her, that other members of the standing committee have received the report of the CBC expenditure in so far as the logo is concerned. I must add that my own wishes on the matter, despite the quotation, clearly stated during the committee meeting, were that I insisted and was most anxious to receive the amount with no strings whatsoever attached. I stated during that session that I would not accept the information with strings attached.

I submit that my efficiency as a member of parliament and as a member of the standing committee on broadcasting is being impaired because I have not been given access to the information which I submit is essential before I can properly approve or not, or deal with the expenditures and, therefore, policies of the corporation.

Sir, I appreciate that it is not within your jurisdiction to order an organization such as the CBC to provide information to a member. At the same time I am not sure that it is proper for any member of parliament to accept reports dealing with public expenditures on the condition that the recipient of such a report promises not to make the report public, particularly in view of the fact that these are public expenditures.

Not having that information, while my colleagues do have it, I am left in a somewhat awkward position. I submit that somehow I will not be as efficient, not knowing exactly where the money is being spent. I must point out as well that at this stage I can only assume the CBC spent so much money on the identity symbol it is either ashamed or afraid to let the public know. I must confess that I was given other information on part of the logo cost, and that was in reference to a cocktail party given by the CBC when introducing the logo, and it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$3,400. I would still like to know the total cost in respect of this logo.

With a view to gaining this information, and also with a view to ensuring that this type of incident does not recur, I would ask at this time that the entire matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Raines) gave the Chair notice of his intention to raise this question of privilege. It deals with the proceedings of a standing committee, and I feel the Chair has already taken every possible opportunity of declaring that the Chair does not sit at the proceedings which take place in standing committees.

Whether or not all the remedies available to the hon. member as a member of that committee have been exhausted is something this House is really not in a position to examine. The hon. member has the remedy of seeking the assistance of the chairman informally; he has

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the remedy of posing a formal motion in order to determine the question; and there is the matter of an order of the committee to determine whether in fact it is the committee that is in possession of the information, in which case it would be in the possession of the committee without restriction, regardless of any restriction that might have been put on by the corporation in the first instance. These are only some of the questions that might arise which this Chair is not competent to analyze.

In the event that these remedies do not satisfy the hon. member there is always, of course, the route of an oral or written question to the minister here in the House, who is responsible for that information, in order to determine whether the information ought to be put on the record in a public way here. Finally, a motion for the production of documents could be made, if such documents exist, outlining the total of the amount in question. These are some of the remedies the hon. member might exhaust.

It seems to me that, the matter having originated in the standing committee and, in addition, the hon. member having exposed the fact that he was somehow in negotiation, contact, or discussion about whether he would respect the confidentiality of the document, he has singled himself out for somewhat unique treatment in this regard. Therefore the Chair feels this does not touch upon a general question of privilege concerning an hon. member's privileges.

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very brief point of order. For the record I should like to support strongly the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Raines) as I also sought a similar type of information in the way of a question on the order paper regarding the costs associated with the new CBC logo, but I was absolutely denied that information.

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[Translation]

### OLYMPIC (1976) ACT

#### AMENDMENT COVERING ISSUE OF GOLD COINS

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-63, intituled An Act to amend the Olympic (1976) Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

\* \* \*

[English]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I have two matters to raise, and the first relates to the business for tomorrow. After consultation through the usual channels, I should like to inform the House that tomorrow will not be an allotted day pursuant to Standing Order 58, and I would ask that it be made an order that there be six allotted days in the supply period ending December 10, 1975. That is my proposal, Mr. Speaker, and I might add that the business for tomorrow will be Bills C-53 and C-50.