

Report and the policy inherent in that particular document, it gave, therefore, an impression to the House that is not consistent with what, a few hours later, was printed in *Hansard* correctly, as it should also have been in the oral quotation recorded electronically.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Chair has allowed the submission. In the interest of fairness on all sides, surely we should not be dealing two days later with something which is alleged to have happened both electronically and in *Hansard*. Had this matter been raised when it should have properly been raised yesterday, the Hon. Minister would have been here to defend himself.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that that is the reason for the rule, that one should bring it to the attention of the House as quickly as possible. Now we have a day when the Minister is not here and this point has been made.

Second, I submit that the operative words of my colleague which make this a matter of debate and not privilege are the words "decided, in my submission". That is debate. He is alleging that the Minister decided something.

When somebody brings forward what he calls "a serious and fundamental discrepancy" between *Hansard* and the electronic record, if we are to deal with it as a House, if we are to bring the issue to the floor, surely it ought to be something where the Minister is given a chance to defend himself and where we can examine the record and take a good look at it.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair is very appreciative of the comments of both the Hon. Member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) and the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, but I want to comment upon the remarks of the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

The point the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary makes is that this is a couple of days late. I want to advise the House that the notice was dated yesterday, and it may well have gone awry in the Speaker's office. That is why I indicated immediately to the Hon. Member for Davenport that I had accepted the notice as legitimate, and I am not concerned about the time.

On the second question, if the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary would prefer that this matter be deferred until a day when the Minister is here, I think that would be acceptable to the House.

I should indicate to the Hon. Member for Davenport that it would seem to the Chair that this is a point of order and not a question of privilege. In any event, there is a complaint here. Unless both Hon. Members want to defer this matter to another day, I think it probably could be settled now by the Chair saying that I will consider the matter. The complaint is on record. If a correction can be made, discussions can be undertaken or had to do that. I think maybe we can leave the matter there. Does the Hon. Member for Davenport want to rise again? The Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville.

Privilege—Mr. Frith

POINT OF ORDER

TABLING OF QUOTED DOCUMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order of which I have given you notice. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is not here but the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) is.

Earlier in Question Period today, in answer to one of the opposition Members, the Prime Minister quoted from a letter from a senior law officer of the Crown or the Commissioner of the RCMP, I am not sure which. I wonder whether, under Citations 327 (6) and (7), the Prime Minister would be willing to table that letter for the House.

In part Citation 327(6) reads:

If a Minister cites or quotes an official document in debate, he should be prepared to table it.

Citation 327(7) reads:

When a letter, even though it may have been written originally as a private letter, becomes part of a record of a department, it becomes a public document, and if quoted by a Minister in debate, must be tabled on request.

If possible, I should like to request that the Deputy Prime Minister table the letter so that we can all have a chance to peruse it.

• (1210)

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the point which the Hon. Member makes is correct. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) did quote from a letter that was sent to the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan), the former Solicitor General, in response to a letter that he sent to the commissioner. I presume that if it is with the consent of the Hon. Member for York Centre, who is not here but he did, you will recall, Mr. Speaker, raise this issue yesterday, I would have no difficulty tabling the letter. In the interests of proper procedure, perhaps we might make doubly sure that the Hon. Member for York Centre agrees to having it tabled, then we would certainly not have any difficulty with it.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski).

The Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) on a question of privilege?

Mr. Frith: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED HARASSMENT

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to the House that yesterday my former secretary during my tenure as chairman of the regional municipality of