

No. 41

JOURNALS
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OF CANADA

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1966.

2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I should bring to the attention of honourable Members that I have received from the honourable Member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan) a notice as required by the Standing Orders that he proposes to raise a question of privilege. I have also received notice that the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) wants to speak to the question of privilege, and I have received notice too from the honourable Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

However, before calling first on the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition I hope honourable Members will allow me to restate very simply and very briefly what I have already said on a number of occasions since the debate now before the House began on Thursday last.

Honourable Members know that according to long standing practice, as explained in citations 104, 105 and 113 of Beauchesne's fourth edition, and in May's 17th edition at page 134, a motion has to follow a question of privilege. The House cannot carry on a debate unless there is question before it and, in the case of questions of privilege, the subject-matter of the discussion has to be a motion of privilege.

I might also be allowed to mention that there can be only one question of privilege at any time before the House. On this point I might refer honourable Members to a ruling made by Mr. Speaker Michener, as recorded in *Hansard* for March 19, 1962, at page 1915. This position was reinforced by a similar ruling rendered by Mr. Speaker Lambert, as reported in *Hansard* of January 21, 1963 at page 2935, where Mr. Speaker Lambert declared: "A matter of privilege cannot be raised when another one is already before the House."