

Point of Order—Mr. Waddell

an order in council. Indeed, as the Commission itself wrote me recently:

It is . . . a fact that the decision to make metric conversion mandatory in this sector was made by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the cabinet . . . Metric Commission Canada is an advisory commission.

Madam Speaker, my point of privilege is twofold: first, that an act of this House is not being fully observed by those charged with carrying out its provisions, that is, that a right extended to the citizens of Canada allowing them to make representations to the minister respecting proposed changes to the act is being circumvented.

In this case, as Erskine May states "The privileges of Parliament are rights which are absolutely necessary for the due execution of its powers", and these rights are not being truly fulfilled.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I asked the hon. member not to quote Erskine May to me unless he is really making a point directly related to the question of privilege. He is telling me over and over again what constitutes a question of privilege. I think it is fair for hon. members to assume that I know what constitutes a question of privilege and that I need not have Erskine May quoted to me every time a question of privilege is raised.

I have heard what the hon. member has had to say. I feel he is asking the Chair to interpret legislation, to determine how it should be applied and whether someone who is responsible for applying that legislation has done so in the proper way. Now that I have put it this way, the hon. member knows that it is absolutely impossible for the Chair to interpret legislation or the way in which it is applied.

The hon. member may have a grievance about this matter, but he certainly does not have a question of privilege. The Chair is in no position to interpret legislation. I think the hon. member does not have a prima facie case of privilege. He might have a very important grievance, but he should find other ways of bringing it to the attention of the House.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. WADDELL—OIL PRICE INCREASES—REQUEST MINISTER
TABLE BERTRAND REPORT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, in answer to a question I put to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) during question period he referred to a report, which was apparently given to him by Mr. Bertrand, the former director of combines. This matter about alleged overcharging by oil companies in the recent oil price increase was raised by me twice before in the House. Since the minister referred to the report in answer to my question, I wonder if he would table in the House of Commons a copy of that report.

Madam Speaker: I am not sure that the minister quoted from the report. He referred to it. At any rate, I have no

authority to force a minister to table a document. If he quotes from it in the House, then his obligations are different. The minister referred to the report, if my memory serves me correctly.

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): If I may, Madam Speaker, I should like to clear up this point. I would like to say to the hon. member that when the Director of Investigation and Research makes an inquiry under the Combines Investigation Act, at the end he mentioned three options: refer his file to the Department of Justice; refer it to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission; or write to the minister to say that he has completed his investigation and has no intention of investigating any further. It is obvious that in this instance the director, Mr. Bertrand, selected the third option. In other words, in his annual report he will describe this investigation he has made and completed at his own discretion. When the time comes for me to table the annual report of the Director of Investigation, the hon. member will find the answers to the questions he has in mind.

[*English*]

MR. WADDELL—POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY OF REPORT "CANADA'S OIL
MONOPOLY"

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): I must accept what the minister says because I have no choice.

I need some direction from you, Madam Speaker, since you are responsible for the Library of Parliament. I wanted to obtain a copy of the Bertrand report on the oil price fixing. There is a report in the Library called "Canada's Oil Monopoly." It is published by James Lorimer and Company. I am told that the government has just obtained a writ, I believe from the Supreme Court of Ontario, but I stand to be corrected, suing the author for publicizing this book and asking all stores to recall it. I wonder if the Library of Parliament will be subject to the same recall so that members of Parliament will not be able to obtain a copy of it. I think this is shocking, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: I am afraid I cannot help the hon. member. I have not seen the writ. I can look into the question raised by the hon. member, but I really cannot commit myself to either having or not having the book withdrawn.

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, if the hon. member or some of his colleagues want to have copies of the Bertrand report they simply have to contact my department and we will send them free copies. The document just shown by the hon. member is a book which has been published without the agreement of Mr. Bertrand or of the Department of Supply and Services, which is responsible for publishing and