

*Privilege*

to the attention of the House today, and with the information provided in correspondence last week, that I am prepared to move the appropriate motion.

There is just one final point that I wanted to bring to the attention of the Chair. The *House of Commons Members' Manual*, chapter H-3, page 13, dated November, 1988 states the following about the unauthorized use of parliamentary stationery, and these are instructions for members of parliament who are retiring.

In order to preclude the unauthorized use by others of official materials, (e.g. stationery containing the Members's letterhead) supplied to Members by the House, former Members are advised to safely *dispose* of such material after the election.

This is the *House of Commons Members' Manual* from which I just quoted.

The individual in question, Mr. Ronald Stewart, is quoted by the media as stating that he had a "hunk" of this material and that there was nothing against the law in him using it. Well, the House does not concern itself with the legal aspects, but with whether or not our privileges are affected by someone who may use such material later.

I suggest to you that, notwithstanding any law, instructions are quite clear to former Members of Parliament that they are to dispose of such material. Hence, it should not be used either by them or by any other person acting on their behalf, wilfully or otherwise.

I want to thank the House for its indulgence in allowing me to bring this matter to the attention of all Members of Parliament. I close by saying that my purpose here is not to refer to the comments of the member. I happen to disagree with them, but I suppose we have a right to agree or disagree with each other in the House from time to time. That is what debate is all about. That is not the point.

Nor is it the point to state that Mr. Stewart himself caused those blocks to be at the top of the letter. After all, he says he did not do it and someone else has actually said that they did. The point is that that material, in several thousands of copies, has been distributed to individuals, misleading them to believe that in some way the House, or a representative of the House, was

associated with it. In that way, I do believe that the privileges of the House collectively have been affected.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to hear the hon. Government House Leader and then I will come to the hon. member for Kamloops.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, this matter could have been dealt with 10 or 12 minutes ago if the hon. member had allowed it.

**Mr. Boudria:** If you hadn't interrupted. Do you like being interrupted?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell was listened to courteously and gave his argument. The hon. House leader did rise on a point of order but—

**Mr. Boudria:** To interrupt!

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, he may have interrupted but he made his point and then sat down. He certainly gave the hon. member every chance to make his argument and I think the same courtesy must be extended to the hon. House leader.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, the newspaper article in question, which alleged that a former member of the House had sent out on House of Commons stationery a letter to an American organization proffering advice on how it might treat a certain issue in the U.S., was immediately reacted to by the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell with some concern that this should happen and an indication that he intended to raise a question of privilege in the House.

That former member of the House, Ron Stewart, then faxed to Your Honour, to me, and to the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, a letter categorically denying that he, on stationery of the House of Commons, sent out that letter—

**Mr. Boudria:** Did I say he had?

**Mr. Andre:** —and, Mr. Speaker,—

**Mr. Boudria:** Try again!

**Mr. McDermid:** Shut up!

**Mr. Speaker:** Please! I think hon. members should listen. The hon. House Leader.

**Mr. Boudria:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Andre:** The rat pack just can't help behaving like a rodent. Mr. Speaker, the—