

have not been going normally. That affects me as a member. What about the plants in my riding which are affected as a result of something that is going on here? That affects my privileges as a member.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may feel that things are not going normally and that he has arguments to support that. The minister might have arguments to support exactly the contrary. This is obviously debate. Up until now the hon. member has not proved to me that he has a question of privilege. Unless he stops debating the question immediately, I will have to rule that he does not have a question of privilege.

Mr. Fretz: Madam Speaker, what I would like to do is move that this go to a committee. May I move that motion? I move, seconded by the hon. member—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The motion would only be in order once I had decided there was a prima facie case of privilege. Up until now the hon. member has not proved to me that there is a prima facie case of privilege. Therefore, since the hon. member does not have any further arguments to produce in support of his question of privilege, I have to rule that the hon. member for Erie (Mr. Fretz) does not have a question of privilege.

Mr. Nielsen: On a point of order, Madam Speaker. I do not quarrel with the ruling at all, but it has been a long-standing practice in this House that notwithstanding the correctness of what you have just stated, you allow a member raising a question of privilege to say "if the Chair finds that I have a question of privilege, it would be my intention to move the following motion". It may be something quite acceptable. That is a long-standing practice, Madam Speaker, and the hon. member should have been allowed to do that.

Madam Speaker: Hon. members may sometimes offer a motion before I rule, but the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) said "if". That was a very big if in light of the exchange that just took place between the Chair and the hon. member for Erie. I did not think it necessary to read the motion because I had already found there was not a question of privilege.

MR. MCKNIGHT—USE OF INITIALS MP BY SENATOR

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): As you will recall, Madam Speaker, I gave you notice of my question of privilege by letter on Friday last and again today. As I said today, the matter affects the ability and the capacity of all members of this House to respond and to discharge their official duties for which they have been elected by the unauthorized and unfairly misleading use of the initials MP, which are commonly accepted and traditionally used to designate members elected to the House of Commons, by individuals other than those elected to this House.

That being said, I will carry on hopefully to present to you several instances regarding the use of the initials MP. I should

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like you to keep in mind that I will be referring to the initials MP, not the written words Member of Parliament, as those words, through usage, common acceptance by the people of Canada and, indeed, common acceptance by members of this House, reflect that we are members of the House of Commons.

● (1740)

I am fully aware, as are all members of this House, that our Parliament is made up of two Houses; the House of Commons in which we serve, and the Senate. I am not attempting in any manner to present any argument which would suggest members of the Senate are not members of the Parliament of Canada. I am attempting to point out to you what the initials MP have become over the past years to represent to the people.

Let me point out to you that I have a copy of a letter—and I believe other members of my caucus have received similar letters—from the hon. Senator H. A. Olson, where at the bottom in which, under his signature he includes MP. If you will allow me to continue, Madam Speaker, I would remind you that on March 26 last you asked my colleague, the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes), a question. He was referring to another matter concerning members of the House, and then you said:

If people believe he is a member of the House of Commons, that is nothing upon which I can act. But does that hon. member indicate anywhere that he is a member of the House of Commons?

I should like briefly to give you some outlines of how the initials MP have been accepted in Canadian usage and by the Canadian electorate of Canada, and draw attention to the fact that a member of the other place, in this case Senator Bud Olson, in using the initials MP is signifying in the minds of the electorate of Canada that he is a member of the House of Commons. We all know he is not. Let me refer to the Canadian Almanac—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member is speaking exclusively of members of the other House who allegedly have used those initials to indicate they were members of Parliament, then that question should be raised in the other House. There is no way this Speaker can reprimand a member of the other House or correct a situation or an action taken by him. In order that we do things here properly, we must concern ourselves with the business of our own House and not that of the other House.

I know the initials MP have traditionally been used to designate members who sit in the House of Commons. The hon. member has pointed out rightly that Parliament means the House of Commons, the Senate and the Queen. I do not know in what sense the hon. member from the other place might have used those initials, but I am sure this question must not be dealt with in this House but in the other place.

Mr. McKnight: Madam Speaker, I do not intend, far from it, to enter into debate with the Chair. I know that you exercise your authority to protect the privileges of the members of the House of Commons, those who have been elected to serve constituents across this land. Unless people know and