

House, the Members' Services Committee, and the universities from which we have had cooperation.

I invite from all hon. members suggestions as to worthy candidates. We would expect that, while they need not necessarily be fluently bilingual, they would certainly have sufficient capacity in both languages to serve in the House which, of course, is a requirement familiar to all hon. members.

I look forward to co-operating with hon. members. I hope as well to elicit the co-operation of various provincial Speakers who probably have already received suggestions regarding pages whom they would like to employ but are unable to employ in some of the provincial legislatures. We will endeavour to make participation in the program as broad and universal as possible.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### PRIVILEGE

MR. KNOWLES (WINNIPEG NORTH CENTRE)—ARCTIC WINTER GAMES—ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN ELECTORAL NOMINATING PROCESS

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege of which I gave Your Honour the required notice under Standing Order 17(2). My point of privilege relates to certain things that have been happening and may still be happening to my friend and colleague, the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth). I have indicated to you, sir, the nature of the matter, and I have also discussed it with the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) (Mrs. Campagnolo).

Some time ago, back on February 13, a letter was written to the hon. member for Northwest Territories by the president of the 1978 Arctic Winter Games Host Society which read as follows:

Dear Mr. Firth:

The 1978 Arctic Winter Games will be held in Hay River and Pine Point from March 19 to 25, 1978. The games will be officially opened by Mrs. Iona Campagnolo, Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport, at 2 p.m., in Hay River, on March 19, 1978.

We would be most pleased to have you come to Hay River for the Opening Ceremonies, and to participate in the various activities at Hay River and Pine Point.

We would appreciate your early advice on this matter in order that we might make the necessary arrangements with respect to accommodation.

Yours very truly

D. M. Stewart

On February 27 my friend and colleague replied to Mr. Stewart's letter in these words:

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I would like to thank you for your kind invitation to be part of the Opening Ceremonies and to participate in the various activities at the 1978 Arctic Winter Games, to be held in Hay River and Pine Point from March 19 to 25.

I would be more than pleased to attend and should be arriving in Hay River on March 18.

With kindest regards

Sincerely yours,

Wally Firth, M.P.  
Northwest Territories

### Privilege—Mr. Stanley Knowles

• (1512)

That is where my hon. friend is today. Someone might ask whether this matter should not stand until he returns, but in my view when an affront is offered to one member of this House it is an affront to all of us.

I feel there has been an affront, and a certain amount of intimidation which I regard as rather serious. The invitation was quite clear. The hon. member for Northwest Territories was to take part in the activities connected with the Arctic Winter Games, particularly the opening ceremony at Hay River on Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m. However, after that invitation had been extended and accepted there were certain telephone calls.

My information is that it was either Mr. Stewart himself, the Mayor of Hay River, who is also an official connected with the games, or someone from his office who telephoned to the office in this building of the hon. member for Northwest Territories and also to the office of my leader, the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent). A complaint was made that the hon. member for Northwest Territories would apparently be attending the Northwest Territories NDP nominating convention which would be held in Hay River during the time the Arctic Winter Games were taking place. What is wrong with that, I do not know.

Of greater concern to me than the affront to the hon. member is what seems to me to be intimidation with respect to the election process itself. This, indeed, is the serious matter which I raise. The information given by Mr. Stewart or his office to the office of my hon. friend and to the office of my leader was that unless the nominating convention were cancelled, his invitation to take part in the opening ceremonies and to participate in activities connected with the games would be cancelled.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** When my hon. friend refused to have anything to do with such a cancellation, pointing out that it was not he who was arranging the convention but the New Democratic Party in the Northwest Territories, the word came that unless the convention were postponed the invitation would be cancelled.

Furthermore, arrangements had been made for the convention to be held in a room in one of the schools in Hay River. That reservation was cancelled when the Northwest Territories NDP refused to postpone the convention. The convention is to be held tonight in the basement of the Caribou Inn, which is privately owned and completely separate from any governmental ties. As far as I know, plans are going ahead for the convention to be held this evening.

As it turns out, the invitation to Sunday's event was, in fact, cancelled. My hon. friend from the Northwest Territories turned up at the opening ceremonies on Sunday afternoon at 2