

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, July 12, 1973

The House met at 2 p.m.

[English]

PRIVILEGE

REFERENCE TO REMARK IN DEBATE ON JULY 11
ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBER FOR CROWFOOT

Mr. Speaker: May I refer to procedural difficulties which took place in the House yesterday toward the end of the question period when, in the course of an exchange in the House, a voice was heard to utter words which were judged by the Chair to be unparliamentary. Failing a clear identification of the voice at the time, the Chair felt that he could only register a protest in general until a further look at the record could be had. *Hansard* at page 5517 charges the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) with the responsibility for the remark.

I think that in the circumstances the Chair has no alternative but to bring this to the attention of the House and seek the co-operation of the hon. member for Crowfoot in this respect. I think hon. members are well aware of the numerous citations and precedents on this point. Hon. members are entitled to disagree with one another; they are entitled to disbelieve what is said to them from one side or the other of the House. But there are proprieties which require that certain terms, certain language, certain expressions should not be used in order to preserve the dignity of the House.

It is in this respect that I seek the co-operation of the hon. member for Crowfoot, and I hope that he will be kind enough to assist the Chair in this respect.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I owe you an apology, I suppose, for causing some difficulty to your good office and yourself by having made the statement which is recorded on page 5517 of *Hansard* and attributed to me. I made that statement. At the time, I did not have the floor; I was occupying my seat. Many thoughts are uttered out loud by members who do not have the floor. I did utter the remark and it is recorded in *Hansard*. The problem which I had at the time in listening to the remarks of the Prime Minister arose when he said:

I did try to have a good cross-section of Albertans there, both from various parties, political parties in Alberta—

Perhaps it was the manner in which he expressed himself when he said he had made a sincere effort to have a good cross-section of Albertans there. I did not think he had made a sincere effort. He is recorded in *Hansard* as saying that he did try. I can honestly say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I do not believe he tried very hard.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): His efforts may well have been good enough to have allowed him to say that he had made

an effort to have a good cross-section of Albertans there, but having now seen the statement recorded in *Hansard*—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have to interrupt the hon. member. I hope we do not get into a debate. This is what caused the difficulty yesterday. There was a debate as to whether an attempt had been made or whether it was a sincere attempt. A question was asked by one hon. member to my left which sparked this rather fiery exchange, and I suggest there is not much point in renewing the debate which took place yesterday. We are now facing a strictly procedural problem. I have asked for hon. members' co-operation. I hope that now the hon. member has made his statement he will reach the essential point of his remarks.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to make things more difficult for you today. All I was attempting to do was to explain the thoughts that went through my mind and why I did not readily rise yesterday to withdraw the remarks when I was asked to do so by various members in the House. Now that the remarks are recorded in *Hansard* and I understand how great an effort the Prime Minister has made in getting a cross-section of Albertans, I can, through you, Mr. Speaker, withdraw those words that were attributed to me on page 5517 of *Hansard*.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TABLING OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF INTERNAL
ECONOMY COMMISSION CONCERNING TELEPHONE
SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to lay upon the table of the House an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Commissioners of Internal Economy, held on Wednesday July 11, 1973, with regard to telephone services for the members.

The text of this extract appears in today's *Votes and Proceedings*.

[English]

[Later:]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of the House I should like to move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang):

That the extract of the minutes of the Commissioners of Internal Economy relating to telephone services, laid upon the table this day, be concurred in.