

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 13, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. ROCK—REQUEST TO BE SEATED AS MEMBER OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Mr. Raymond Rock (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege. Since the age of 13, with my heart and soul I have believed in and supported the Liberal party and its leaders. This innermost feeling has now petered out. With no regrets I have come to the conclusion that I cannot continue my support of this government and ask that I be seated across the floor with the official opposition as a Progressive Conservative member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: This is the beginning of the landslide.

An hon. Member: Watch them come now.

Mr. Paproski: The Polish members have to stick together.

An hon. Member: Send over the other 19.

Mr. Hees: This is going to be like those one-a day vitamins.

Mr. Cullen: Lots of luck, fellows.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

On the order: Questions on order paper.

Mr. Speaker: Questions on the order paper. Order, please. The Chair has called questions on the order paper. Shall the questions stand?

Mr. Trudeau: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, in all the ruckus I did not hear you call motions—

An hon. Member: Are you coming over?

Mr. Hees: Here comes No. 2.

Mr. Trudeau: —and I would like to table—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is a suggestion by the right hon. Prime Minister that although we have gone beyond the order of motions he be allowed to table a document. Is this agreed?

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the difficulties the right hon. gentleman is having, Mr. Speaker, I think we should cooperate with him.

Mr. Trudeau: I am happy to hear that because I have another statement to make on motions and therefore I am sure I will have agreement.

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[Translation]

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—TABLING OF LETTERS TO PROVINCIAL PREMIERS FROM PRIME MINISTER

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I should like to table, in both official languages, copies of letters which I sent to the provincial premiers concerning federal proposals on payment of family allowances.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I understand the Prime Minister also has a statement to make on motions.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER ON SECURITY OF MAIL AND TELEPHONES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on Friday the hon. member for Yukon asked whether the government is "aware of any practice or policy in government departments whereby personal and private mail directed to members of parliament from government employees, using the internal mailing facilities of the department, is intercepted and examined by departmental or any other security personnel." The hon. member asked whether in the case of unsigned correspondence there is any procedure "subjecting the envelopes and contents to fingerprint and other identification tests."

I want to tell hon. members categorically that there is no such government policy. Inquiries have been made of the RCMP on my behalf and I have been given positive assurance that nothing of the kind is done by the RCMP or on its behalf either in security work or in connection with criminal investigation. I am not aware of any such practice in any government department or agency and certainly there is no policy or direction in that regard. I should be astonished to learn that anything of the kind is going on anywhere. Frankly, I do not believe it is. If the hon. member has any evidence that it is in fact occurring, I think he has a clear responsibility, especially since he has raised this matter and given rise to widespread specula-