

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 22, 1949

The house met at eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REFERENCES TO REMARKS IN DEBATE ON
NOVEMBER 21

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): On a question of privilege Mr. Speaker, on reading *Hansard* of November 21 at page 2000, just after I had presented certain views to you in regard to a discussion which took place yesterday on a point of order I find that words are included which I did not hear. If I had heard them, I would have dealt with them immediately.

Following the presentation of a quotation from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, *Hansard* reports the Minister of Trade and Commerce, (Mr. Howe) as saying: "Always the slanderer." Since that incident is past, I do not propose to do more than to say that had I heard that statement at the time it was made, I would have taken appropriate action.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Yesterday in the course of one of the debates I asked whether or not a Mr. John Aird, associated with a certain bill, was the same John Aird who had been called in the Beauharnois investigation in 1931. At the time I asked my question I had been led to believe that such was the case. I now find that it is not the same man, and I feel that it is my duty to withdraw any inference against the Mr. John Aird associated with the pipe line bill in question.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: When the house assembled at eleven o'clock this morning the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) brought to my attention certain words which, according to *Hansard*, were used by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe). He did not hear the words; I do not think any other hon. members of the house heard them, and in any event I did not hear them. I recall that there was considerable confusion at the time, and the debate was quite heated. Of course the words are unparliamentary. The leader of the opposition did not ask to have them withdrawn, but in the circumstances—

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the leader of the opposition withdrew his insinuation that I knew something I said I did not know, I am happy to withdraw the words in question.

Mr. Speaker: Then this will close the incident.

QUESTION OF TRANSPORTATION FOR WESTERN
MEMBERS AT END OF SESSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley): I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Transport about arrangements for transportation home for western members at the end of the session. The reason I ask the question, Mr. Speaker, is that many of us have reservations for the 4th and 5th of December. Obviously the house will not finish its business on December 3. We have been informed by both railways that if we cancel our present reservations we shall get no transportation on either railroad until December 26. We should like to stay here until the end of the session—although I think some members of the government might like to see me go home this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cruickshank: This is important to the western members, Mr. Speaker. Through you, sir, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether arrangements can be made. I presume that the government and the leader of the opposition want their members to remain until the end of the session.

Mr. Sinnott: Ride the rods.

Mr. Cruickshank: That may be all right for some hon. members from Manitoba; the hon. member for Springfield may have had the experience of riding the rods, but I have not.

We asked this question once before and arrangements were made. No member should have to leave before the end of the session. If a member cancels his reservations he has to stay here until December 26, and no one is going to do that. I should like an expression of opinion from the acting minister.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to have the officers of the Department of