

Privilege—Mr. Gourd

President of the Privy Council to make clear what is going to happen at the next sitting of the House?

Mr. Paproski: Or resign.

Mr. Collenette: Madam Speaker, this is getting into something of a debate. I apologize for my error. I was around last Thursday but I did not pay attention to what was being debated on private members' hour.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Cousineau: The hon. member opposite was not interested; he asked for a quorum!

Mr. Collenette: That is a good point. My colleague mentions that the hon. member was so interested in the order of business that he was playing games with the rules, being very mischievous and calling for a quorum last Thursday when other members on that side of the House and on this side wanted to debate and get along with the government's legislation.

I will look into this matter, Madam Speaker. It is my understanding that notice of motion for the production of papers No. 2 should come up for debate tomorrow or perhaps in the next couple of weeks. The hon. member can then make his case with respect to the production of these papers.

Madam Speaker: Orders of the day. I am sorry, the hon. parliamentary secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Collenette).

Mr. Collenette: I am sorry to interrupt you, Madam Speaker, but you did not call for the production of papers today. I think perhaps the conversation—

An hon. Member: She did.

An hon. Member: We said stand.

Madam Speaker: I did, but the House was interrupted.

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[*Translation*]

PRIVILEGE

MR. GOURD—RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN BACKBENCHERS

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege concerning the geographic arrangement of the House. Even though I cannot speak on behalf of all hon. members, I have the impression at least that I am expressing the opinion of several of my backbencher colleagues on both sides of the House and certainly that of my colleagues who sit in the south-west corner of the House. My question concerns an old problem caused by the geographic position, and more specifically the gap which separates members in the southwest corner, historically known as the "Little Chicago" in the House, from the Chair. Out of sight, out of mind, as the

proverb goes. Because of this, Madam Speaker, members who sit in this corner have some difficulty in being seen, which inevitably makes it more difficult for them to express their opinions and ideas. This is unfortunate since very profound and wise thoughts cannot be heard and must remain untold.

Madam Speaker, since this gap cannot be closed, would it not be possible to reduce its consequences with certain tools or arrangements so that if south-western backbenchers must remain out of your sight, they will not remain out of your mind.

Madam Speaker: Am I to understand that the hon. member is complaining that members who sit in the southwest part of the House are not recognized as often as the others? I should remind him that only today I recognized the hon. member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin), the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster) and the hon. member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins), and that I also recognized certain other members last Friday, if I am not mistaken. In fact, I have the impression that most members who have been recognized on this side of the House sit in that area. I believe that they often rise because they are afraid that I shall not see them, but they have provided me with instruments which will enable me to bring them closer to the proceedings, so to speak, and I shall certainly use them on occasion. However, I do not believe that the hon. member is justified in raising the question of privilege.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—
BETRAYAL OF ELECTION PROMISES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa) moved:

That this House unreservedly condemns the government for its outright betrayal of its election promises to lower interest rates, to cut taxes and to stimulate the growth of the Canadian economy, without a mandate from the Canadian people for such a reversal.

He said: Madam Speaker, the motion before the House does three things. It points out that, completely contrary to the promises made during the recent election campaign, completely contrary to the way the government in power voted in December, they have not lowered taxes as they promised, they have not taken action directly to control the level of interest rates in Canada and they certainly have done nothing to stimulate the Canadian economy.

As all members of the House will recognize, Madam Speaker, this is precisely the same motion that was presented to the House before Christmas and for which the government in power voted in order to bring down the Conservative government of the day.