



House of Commons
CANADA

Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

SECU • NUMBER 033 • 3rd SESSION • 40th PARLIAMENT

EVIDENCE

Monday, October 18, 2010

—
Chair

Mr. Kevin Sorenson

Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security

Monday, October 18, 2010

•(1535)

[English]

The Chair (Mr. Kevin Sorenson (Crowfoot, CPC)): Good afternoon, everyone.

This is meeting number 33 of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security. Today is Monday, October 18, 2010.

Our orders of the day require us to go in camera for the consideration of the draft report “Federal Corrections: Mental Health and Addiction”.

Before we begin, I just want to say that at the conclusion of our meeting today, I'd like to take a few moments to look at a couple of things regarding future business.

We have a budget for bringing witnesses here for the G-8/G-20 discussions. It is in the amount of \$28,400, which works out to \$1,200 per witness, with a per diem as well. So we will discuss that at the end, as well as a little bit about the Wednesday meeting.

Before we go in camera, however, Mr. Davies has asked to make a statement, and we certainly welcome Mr. Davies to do that.

Mr. Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to address an issue that arose at the last meeting, on October 6, 2010. On that day I issued a news release that dealt with my motion to hold G-20 meetings. I released that news release after we came out of our in camera status but before the minutes of the meeting were issued by the committee. I also indicated in that release that all four parties implicitly supported this initiative.

I'd like to offer a brief explanation and, more importantly, my unqualified apologies to all committee members for any breach of their privileges as committee members or as members of Parliament that my actions may have inadvertently caused.

As members know, I had been pursuing my motion for G-20 inquiries since the summer, and in fact I did file a motion to do so on September 13, as my release said. It simply stated what had actually occurred.

Due to the leadership and wisdom of the chair, the parties met out of committee informally and without in camera status on October 5 to try to agree on a committee agenda, and we indeed did secure agreement on that day. The next day, on October 6, I drafted a release indicating that my motion had been agreed to by all parties, and what was in my mind at the time was the meeting we had had the previous day, at which we had agreed.

I waited until we came out of the in camera status before releasing my release under the sincere but erroneous belief that this was the proper time to do so. I was wrong in that, but I did think I was in order. For my error in breaching your privileges, I apologize.

With respect to referring to all parties supporting my motion, because I did not want any party to be singled out as far as credit for this went, I thought I was informing the public that all parties had worked together on that. But of course, inadvertently, I think what I portrayed might have been perceived as being the result of deliberation in the meeting, and I was wrong on that as well.

Once again, I now realize what I did was a breach of the privileges of the members, and all I can do at this point is to offer my unconditional apology. I would point out one thing. The information did become public 24 hours after that—not that this fact excuses what I did—but it wasn't as though something was breached that was meant to be secret forever.

In any event, I have nothing to say except that I am sorry to all committee members, and I trust that it won't happen again.

The Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Davies.

Mr. Rathgeber.

Mr. Brent Rathgeber (Edmonton—St. Albert, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

First of all, I accept Mr. Davies at his word and I accept his apologies.

The members might remember that I too, some time ago, in the spring of 2010, posted a message on my Twitter account that dealt with matters that were discussed in camera. Subsequent to that, I apologized in the House but never apologized formally to the committee. Obviously, it was the members of this committee whose potential privileges might have been breached.

But what I want to say is quite simple. Often these committees go in camera and then in public, and there's almost a seamless transition. Members have to be absolutely vigilant regarding when they are in camera. I made a mistake, but it was an innocent mistake. I just wasn't mindful of the discussions that actually were in camera.

So I accept Mr. Davies' explanation and reiterate that all members need to really be mindful of when we're in camera.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Rathgeber, and thank you, Mr. Davies.

I think we're going to cut this off here. I don't want to feel like we're in a confessional booth and I don't want to open it up for everyone to—

An hon. member: Who's next?

The Chair: Yes, who's next?

We thank you for bringing that, Mr. Davies. We accept that apology and we appreciate it.

Now, if we can, we will move in camera. We'll suspend for just one moment to allow us the opportunity to do that.

[Proceedings continue in camera]

MAIL  POSTE

Canada Post Corporation / Société canadienne des postes

Postage paid

Port payé

Lettermail

Poste-lettre

**1782711
Ottawa**

If undelivered, return COVER ONLY to:
Publishing and Depository Services
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5

*En cas de non-livraison,
retourner cette COUVERTURE SEULEMENT à :*
Les Éditions et Services de dépôt
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0S5

Published under the authority of the Speaker of
the House of Commons

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its Committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the *Copyright Act*. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a Committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the *Copyright Act*.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its Committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Additional copies may be obtained from: Publishing and
Depository Services
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5
Telephone: 613-941-5995 or 1-800-635-7943
Fax: 613-954-5779 or 1-800-565-7757
publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
http://publications.gc.ca

Also available on the Parliament of Canada Web Site at the
following address: <http://www.parl.gc.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité
du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la *Loi sur le droit d'auteur*.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

On peut obtenir des copies supplémentaires en écrivant à : Les
Éditions et Services de dépôt
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0S5
Téléphone : 613-941-5995 ou 1-800-635-7943
Télécopieur : 613-954-5779 ou 1-800-565-7757
publications@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
http://publications.gc.ca

Aussi disponible sur le site Web du Parlement du Canada à
l'adresse suivante : <http://www.parl.gc.ca>