

Privilege—Mr. Cafik

Mr. Andre: No, he did not say that.

Mr. Lalonde: It certainly was said and if you examine the record you will see for yourself.

Mr. Andre: It was Cafik who said the information was wrong.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I wish to challenge that statement. I am not responsible for the type of questions the hon. member asks. The hon. member received the answer to the question which he asked which was: What were the names of the individuals associated with this project who received in excess of \$100. We provided the answer to that question.

Subsequently, someone requested and obtained the full balance sheet for the particular project with all disbursements and income. We were quite agreeable to providing this information to that individual. If this was the information the hon. member wanted, that was what he should have asked for in his question. There is no contradiction between what was provided to an outside person who asked for information which was available and what was provided in this House in response to a question by the hon. member. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the allegation that officials of my department would have deliberately, or even inadvertently, provided inaccurate information to this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: We are on the same question of privilege. I am sure that both members wish to make further contributions. However, if I were to permit them to make further contributions, I am sure it would lead to yet further contributions being made by each one of them. This is not a forum for debate, it is a forum for raising a question of privilege. If there is a *prima facie* question of privilege and action is sought in a motion by the hon. member, the Chair has to take action. Both members have had an opportunity to put their views on the record. There is no action sought on the part of the Chair, and I am not able to find there is a *prima facie* question of privilege. It is a grievance concerning the accuracy of facts, which is a matter for question and debate. Opportunity has been given for a fair exposé on both sides, and I think we should get on with orders of the day.

Mr. Cafik: In response to my question today, the hon. member indicated a few moments ago that he had only put forward the facts he had received from the Department of National Health and Welfare or indirectly from another person who had the information with respect to the details. But that is not really true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have said to the hon. member, as I have said to the hon. member for Winnipeg North, that this is not a forum to challenge the accuracy of one another's statements in this way. There has been a question of privilege raised and it is a long standing practice of this House that an hon. member raising a question of privilege must seek the opinion of the Chair as to whether or not there is a *prima facie* question of privilege, and if there is to seek some action by way of a motion. That has not been done.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

I have tried to give ample opportunity for both hon. members to expose their grievances but in fact they are grievances and not questions of privileges. I have already indicated that I do not propose to let the two hon. members go back and forth for the rest of this hour. I feel that the matter is closed and that we ought to get on with orders of the day.

Mr. Orlikow: A question of privilege!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North is seeking the floor, I presume to establish a question of privilege of some sort.

Mr. Orlikow: I wish to raise a new question of privilege. It will be very short and it is in response to the comment made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. At no point did I question the veracity of the information given to me or to anybody else by officials of his department. The interpretation of the answers by me or by the hon. member is a different matter. I never questioned the veracity of the information given to me by the department.

● (1220)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CULTURAL PROPERTY EXPORT AND IMPORT ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING EXPORT OF CULTURAL PROPERTY AND IMPORT OF CULTURAL PROPERTY ILLEGALLY EXPORTED FROM FOREIGN STATES

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State) moved that Bill C-33, an act respecting the export from Canada of cultural property and the import into Canada of cultural property illegally exported from foreign states, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

He said: Madam Speaker, last October 30 I tabled in the House Bill C-33, an act respecting the export from Canada of cultural property and the import into Canada of cultural property illegally exported from foreign states. I think it would now be helpful for me to examine the need for such legislation, touch on procedures followed in other countries and state the philosophy behind the proposals I am making in Bill C-33. In this way I hope to place the proposed legislation in the context of my department's continuing and expanding role in developing policies in the cultural field.

Over the years Canada's heritage has been diminished by the departure of cultural treasures. Champlain's astrolabe and the Paul Kane diaries are only two examples of objects which left Canada instead of being preserved here in our own country for the benefit of future generations.

In the past, my predecessors took the initiative on an ad hoc basis to make purchases in emergencies when important private collections risked dispersal or export because our custodial institutions did not always have the