

tive response whatever. Indeed, prior to the cabinet discussion of this question today I sought to contact that gentleman during the course of yesterday to find out if in fact it was the position of the government of Alberta that it was not going to respond substantially. I reached Mr. Dickie late yesterday and he indicated that, quite the contrary, they would like to have consultation and input into the level of exports over a period of time. We have taken that into account in the course of the decision that has been before the cabinet.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, the whole matter that we have just been discussing is verging on a question of privilege, as you can understand. My supplementary question is this: in view of the fact that the minister says he does not choose to act without consultation, does he now intend to have a meeting face to face with these ministers of the producing provinces to find out authoritatively what their opinion is, rather than this gratuitous type of statement made in the House yesterday?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The statement which I made in the House yesterday was literally correct—

**Some hon. Members:** Literally!

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):**—that there had been no substantive response from the government of Alberta. I am glad that even as late in the game as last night, after having had the report for two weeks, the Alberta government indicated it would like to discuss it and expressed the wish that we discuss it. This is one of the factors that we will take into account in our action on this matter.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I want an answer to that question: will there be consultations with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan on this subject of what their wishes are on this matter?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I would say that there already has been. Having communicated the report to the provinces very close to two weeks ago and not having had any response, except at the very last minute, from both of them, I think the federal government went a long way toward consultation with the provinces—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I think that an important element in terms of federal-provincial consultation is that when we are under pressure, as we have been in the House, to make a document such as this one public, if the province is substantively interested in it it should make some effort to make its views known as soon as possible.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a question of privilege, and I think you will have to make a ruling. Yesterday the minister said in the House that he received the report from the minister of Alberta expressing no opinion with regard to the substance of the National Energy Board Report.

### Oral Questions

Then, he want on gratuitously to make the following statement:

... and apparently any level of exports from Canada would be acceptable to him.

My question of privilege is obvious. The minister is trying to mislead the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** In his statement in the House today the minister said that when he took this up with his cabinet colleagues he telephoned the minister in Alberta trying to get more information as to what the latter's opinion was, which confirms the fact that the minister did not know what he was talking about yesterday. Yet, he stated that any level of exports from Canada would be acceptable to Alberta. I want to put it to you very bluntly, Mr. Speaker. I think you will have to rule on whether there is a case of contempt of the House by the minister in misinforming the House on the views of the province of Alberta.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, in relation to the question of privilege, I think that the words speak for themselves. I would be quite happy to lay on the table of the House the telegram, which I do not have with me. As I said before, I think it is appropriate in these federal-provincial discussions that if there is to be effective consultation we should have a full and prompt reply.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there other hon. members who wish to make a contribution to the question of privilege.

**Mr. Horner:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The minister appears to be complaining that the province of Alberta has not replied in substance to the secret document of the National Energy Board. The government of Alberta believes that the report was sent to them in confidence, and therefore they will make their answer to it public when the report is made public.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Are you speaking for them?

**Mr. Horner:** I will speak for them only if they ask me to do so. But I know very well that is their answer with regard to the secret report. That is why they want it made public. Then they will make their remarks to you public.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Unless there are other hon. members who have a contribution to make to the alleged question of privilege, my view, on the submissions to which I have listened carefully, is that the proposed question of privilege—

**An hon. Member:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. My view is that the proposed question of privilege amounts to a complaint about the quality or content of the minister's answer to a question that has been put to him in the House. I think it is significant that the last question which was put to the minister by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Moun-