

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

**Mr. Laing:** I would be very happy to let the hon. member know as soon as I possibly can what the exact waste was but I have not got the figure with me tonight.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Chairman, the minister came in late tonight when we have been here all day—

**Mr. Laing:** Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Churchill:** —and stirred up a storm and now he has got to answer for it.

**Mr. Laing:** —on a question of privilege, this nonsense started—

**Mr. Churchill:** I have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Laing:** I am rising on a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman.

**The Acting Chairman (Mr. Tardif):** Order, please. The minister is rising on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Laing:** The hon. member for Cumberland, looking at the clock, made the statement that I came in late tonight. I have been here all day and all night, and I do not want this nonsense repeated by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

**Mr. Coates:** On a question of privilege, I was not referring to when the minister took his seat in the house. I have seen him here during the debate all evening. He has been in and out of the chamber. I was referring to the fact that at ten minutes to twelve or thereabouts he informed us—

**Mr. Laing:** "He walks in here", you said.

**Mr. Coates:** If I said you walked in here, it may be that you walked in here at some time prior to that. I am not sure. You were in and out. I am just saying that you came in here at ten minutes to twelve and made this charge and now you are telling us that you have no facts to back up your charge. What the devil are you doing, coming in here at that hour and making a charge, if you have no facts?

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Chairman, whether or not the minister has been here all evening, he entered into the debate at a very late hour just when we were prepared—

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

**Mr. Churchill:** —in co-operation with the other side, to move along very quickly; but this minister has slowed things down by a good 40 minutes by making a charge that he cannot back up. He has tried to leave the

impression that there was tremendous waste at Frobisher. He has been asked to withdraw that remark and he has hedged. He said that the figure of \$20,000 or \$25,000 mentioned by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle is not high enough, and at the same time he has been talking in terms of \$660,000. Let the minister give us the facts. Let him make a definite charge and give us the figure. Let him not leave a smear, for that is what it is, on the record against the former minister of northern affairs. We are quite prepared to debate this issue for some considerable time. We are just beginning to settle down to the situation. This minister, who should have kept silent, has now got everything nicely stirred up and we have got our second wind. We are waiting to hear from the minister. Is he going to withdraw his statement and clear the record or is he going to leave it there? If he is going to leave it there, we will be here for two or three more hours.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Chairman, as I read what I have in front of me we are dealing with an item of \$53,439 which is a reimbursement of the northern administration branch stores account for the value of stores which have become obsolete or unserviceable. The thing that is puzzling me as a result of the developing altercation across the floor is whether the figure is the one that appears in this vote. I would have thought this was the amount representing stores which have become obsolete or unserviceable. I should like to ask the minister whether in fact this is the amount. I do so because I was one of those who was puzzled by his earlier reference to \$600,000. I realize we cannot always catch every word exchanged across the floor of the house, but certainly some of us who are a bit outside the immediate argument did have an erroneous impression of what the minister said in his first statement. I am wondering whether this figure of \$53,439 is not the figure that certain members are trying to have the minister give.

**Mr. Laing:** Mr. Chairman, the sum that is to be written off as a loss this year is, of course, the sum stated in the vote.

**Mr. Nasserden:** Mr. Chairman, as I looked at this figure before we got into all the hassle about it, the thing that surprised me was that it was not greater than it is. The minister himself has admitted that the situation in regard to these northern points is much different from what pertains in the southern part of the country. I figure I am just as good a manager as anybody else and I