

The Budget—Mr. Pearson

We got those names. The second question was:

Which of these are United States corporations, Canadian corporations, Canadian subsidiaries of United States companies, British corporations, others?

The third question was:

Of the total acreage under permit rights, how many acres have been assigned to each of these companies?

I gave the answer to that question tonight in terms which are strictly accurate. The successful bidders were United States corporations or Canadian subsidiaries of United States corporations in the case of 95 per cent of the area that was leased.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker—
Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Unless the minister is rising on a point of order or a question of privilege he should not interrupt. If it is a matter of disagreement with the facts as presented or if he feels the house is being misled by what is being said he has an opportunity at the end of the address to make clear anything that is in question.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I think the hon. member should read the whole answer.

Mr. Pearson: I want to make it perfectly clear. The Prime Minister said, in respect of the taking up of leases for oil and mineral development, that this was a major means to preserve our sovereignty. When we asked for specific information in respect of certain specific bids we got the information that I put on the record, and it is strictly accurate.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): You are still wrong. Read the answers.

Mr. Starr: Read the answers.

Mr. Pickersgill: They are on *Hansard*.

Mr. Pearson: All these promises, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): A very shameful performance.

Mr. Starr: Put on the answers.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): A deliberate misstatement.

Mr. Speaker: Order; let the hon. member make his own speech.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I should like to rise to a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rouleau: A vision again.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister was rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I believe I am correct in saying it is a proper matter of privilege in this house when I, as a minister, stand up and say the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) is misstating a clearly stated answer I made in the house. Even though I have not got it here, he will find that I said: assuming that this means one sale, this is the answer. Any person who would do a thing like that has definitely committed a breach of privilege, and I want it corrected in this house.

Mr. Speaker: As I understand the question of privilege which the minister is raising, he is saying that the Leader of the Opposition is not using the answer that was given, not that the Leader of the Opposition is giving an incorrect answer.

Mr. Pearson: I have used the answer that the minister gave. I have not stated one incorrect figure. Once again, in order to be fair, I will read the questions. These questions and answers may be found at pages 2348 and 2349 of *Hansard* for April 8, 1959. The questions are as follows:

1. What are the names of the 10 successful bidders for oil and gas permit rights in northern Canada?
2. Which of these are United States corporations, Canadian corporations, Canadian subsidiaries of United States companies, British corporations, others?
3. Of the total acreage under permit rights, how many acres have been assigned to each of these companies?
4. Of the total acreage under permit rights, what percentage has been assigned to (a) Canadian corporations; (b) United States corporations and Canadian subsidiaries of United States companies; (c) British corporations; (d) others?
5. In this connection, what is meant by "cash bonus bids"?

The answers appear on a subsequent page of *Hansard* and are as I indicated in my statement.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Read them.

Mr. Starr: He is not telling the truth.

Mr. Pearson: As a result of the March 9 sale these 10 companies received permit rights as follows, and the 10 companies are itemized. Then, the next answer is:

4. The percentage acreage breakdown as between the Canadian, United States companies, etc., within the 10 companies listed in 3 above is as follows: (a) Canadian corporations, 4 per cent—"

Mr. Starr: Be honest and read the answer.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on another question of privilege?