

Privilege—Mr. Fulton

Mr. Fulton: I have been raising questions since July 8, 1980, in relation to a special dumping permit. As I have pointed out, I have been misled by many members of the Crown, including the Prime Minister. I would like to put on the record precisely what those statements have been. The most recent being in relation to statements made by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in response to questions I have raised in the House.

After giving out this permit behind closed doors, the ministers have gone ahead with a private study which is to be completed by March 31. This study is looking into the probability of resuspension of tailings as a result of bottom currents. This is really at the centre of this controversy. The study is being done by Woodward-Clyde Consultants Ltd. The funds were put forward. This came to my attention only yesterday.

I have been requesting a full public inquiry, as have five major church groups in this country, the Nishga people from my riding who I have the honour to represent, many other groups including the B.C. Federation of Labour, the Building and Construction Trades Council and, not only tens of thousands but now hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are interested in a full public inquiry.

I will not give the give complete quotations, Madam Speaker, but the dates on which I have been misled are as follows: by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans July 8, 1980; October 21, 1980; January 16, 1981, and by his parliamentary secretary on February 10, 1981; by the Prime Minister July 8, 1980; by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, January 22, 1981, twice on January 23, 1981, and February 11, 1981.

An hon. Member: He should be fired.

An hon. Member: Give us the quotations.

Mr. Fulton: I will be pleased to put the quotations on the record, if Madam Speaker, has the time. It is a most serious question—

Madam Speaker: I must interrupt the hon. member. First, his question of privilege as indicated in the notice which was given is not exactly the kind of thing he is debating now. He is far off the statement he made to me as to what constituted his question of privilege. I would ask the hon. member to speak about the privilege and about the facts as he has put them in his notice to me.

Secondly, the hon. member is debating the question, he is not telling me what constitutes his question of privilege. The ministers are not in the House at the present time. Sometimes some element of debate is acceptable in the course of trying to expose a question of privilege but since the ministers are not here to refute or to answer any of the arguments brought forward by the hon. member I have to ask him to keep very strictly to the question of privilege.

Mr. Fulton: Madam Speaker, I will try to sum it up briefly and to keep to one particular point. There are many places

where I know I have been misled. However, what arose yesterday has been to deliberately mislead me as a Member of Parliament. I have the proof in terms of the actions taken by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development today. Yesterday he told me—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member really want to say “deliberately mislead”?

Mr. Fulton: I do, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: I have to tell the hon. member that he cannot use this kind of language in the House. This is not an acceptable expression to qualify anything that another member of this House has done. I must ask the hon. member to be extremely careful in the way that he refers to other hon. members. I am here to protect them from this kind of interpolation.

● (1530)

Mr. Fulton: Madam Speaker, I can only say that within a period of 24 hours a minister of the Crown told me one thing here in this chamber, 24 hours before that, and it is recorded in *Hansard*, he made a precise statement that is exactly of the same nature, and today he goes completely contrary to what he has told me both here in the House on the record and to me directly in this House only yesterday. I can only say that, having raised this issue the number of times I have, I have evidence that the statements made to me by the minister are false. He knows they are false. I can prove they are false. I therefore will move:

That Madam Speaker directs that those undertakings made by the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and that this entire issue be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for examination.

Mr. Nielsen: That's quite a grab bag.

Madam Speaker: I will have to wait until the ministers are in the House in order that they can reply to the intervention of the hon. member. I will rule on it later.

MR. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH)—POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to serve notice of this question of privilege. It arose as the last item of business in the committee this morning. The matter is urgent because it involves the imminent probability of the destruction of parliamentary records. I am fearful—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows he cannot bring into the House of Commons any reference to deliberations which take place in committee. The reason is very simple. The House is not aware of such actions as the hon. member is attempting to describe. If he has a question of privilege to raise about something which took place in committee, he should raise his question of privilege in the committee.