Privilege-Mr. Beatty

An hon. Member: Have you no respect for the Chair? Madam Speaker said she had enough.

Mr. Nielsen: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is trying to gag me and to stop me from raising points which he has not even heard. He has already spoken, so naturally no one else need speak.

An hon. Member: Typical arrogance.

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I hate to intervene, but it seems to me that the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) is reflecting upon the decision you have just made to hear no further interventions on this subject. I should like to have a clarification from you, Madam Speaker, as to whether or not he or other members are indeed permitted to continue this shameful waste of time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I was listening to the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) because I thought he was making a point of order, but obviously he was pleading with me to hear him and saying he had further arguments to make in favour of this question of privilege.

What I did say was that the hon. member had spoken for 20 minutes. I believe it is the right of a member who feels he has a privilege to expose as completely as possible why he feels he has a question of privilege. I have allowed him 20 minutes in which to do that. I feel the two questions of privilege raised are close; the one raised by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and another one today. They will be considered separately. I can give the hon. member for Yukon the assurance that they will be considered separately. What I said and feel is true is that, having listened to both of them, they are quite close and based on arguments which have been drawn from my rulings, but in some of the cases some of the things I said in my rulings were left out. Therefore I feel sufficiently informed and I will not hear any more speakers on this particular question of privilege.

• (1530)

Mr. Dick: You cannot pre-judge on that.

Mr. Nielsen: This matter affects my privileges too as a member of this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: I have submitted to you, Madam Speaker, the fact that I have additional points to make. How in the world can the Chair judge whether or not there are legitimate additional points until they are heard? Surely I am entitled to be heard on a question affecting so deeply the rights of members.

An hon. Member: Shame on you.

Mr. Nielsen: I do not accept interventions such as the lowly one that was raised by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. MacLaren).

Mr. Collenette: Obey the rules of this House. You are arguing with the Chair.

Madam Speaker: I offer to hon. members that I will look at length at the arguments submitted today.

Mr. Nielsen: But I have not submitted mine.

Madam Speaker: If, after having looked at those arguments, I feel I should hear supplementary information, I will do that tomorrow before I rule.

Mr. Dick: No, no.

Madam Speaker: I will not hear any more today on this particular question of privilege.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Chair asks the co-operation of members on a matter like this one, where I feel I have given members a lot of occasion to express themselves on different questions of privilege that are brought up. This one being so similar—and I think we have discussed this matter in the House quite at length—I ask the co-operation of members in this particular instance to allow me to look at the intervention of the hon. member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty). I feel now that I have been sufficiently informed, but I will offer to some members the opportunity to speak again tomorrow if, having looked at the arguments put forward, I feel I need to be more informed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, the second time you reiterated that you would hear members tomorrow before ruling, there was a qualifier attached to it. I know I have points to present to the Chair that have not been put in this argument. I know that.

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Nielsen: You do not, because you have not heard them. If what the Chair is saying to me is that I will have the right to put those points to you tomorrow before your ruling is made, then I will be happy and sit down. But I do not want any qualifications attached to it, because I know I have points the Chair has not yet heard from either this side or that side.

Madam Speaker: I have put the qualifications, and I am afraid I must maintain them. I will hear the hon. member tomorrow if I feel—

An hon. Member: Before, not "if".

Madam Speaker: —that on its face this question might be a question of privilege. If I am absolutely sure by looking at the arguments put forward by the hon. member that there could in