

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member of Northwest Territories.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Dick: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a question of privilege in view of the fact that I believe this is a very important question and since I have not reached the point of putting it. I was trying to point out this matter by way of a question rather than a question of privilege. I refer to an undertaking or promise made in this House which I, as a member of parliament, and I believe others have taken as an undertaking by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs as a result of his statement on October 24 at page 723 of *Hansard*. That is an undertaking on which I have relied, and I intend to carry out my function as a member of parliament. The minister suggested that members of parliament, no matter to which party they belong, would attend as the official person representing the CMHC at all functions in their ridings, and I take this right from page 723 of *Hansard*. The minister has now sent out a letter of invitation to Liberals only to go to those constituencies which are represented by other than government members.

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame.

Mr. Dick: That is my question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Because of the very important nature of the question, and particularly because of its ingredient of political partisanship, I was most anxious to extend every courtesy to the hon. member. My discontinuance of his right to ask a question was not based in any way on the subject matter, but on my repeated request that the hon. member discontinue his long preamble and get to the point of the question. On his second refusal to do so I felt it was in the interest of other members to move on to another question. If the hon. member has a question to put to the minister I would be grateful if he would put it.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, I was attempting to put the matter as a question of privilege but I will be glad to change it to a direct question. Will the minister now explain to the House why he has gone back on his undertaking and promise to parliament, which he gave to the members of this House, and why he is no longer inviting members of other parties to official CMHC functions which take place in their ridings, particularly when he expressly stated he wanted them to be there?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to invite members of parliament in each case to be in attendance and participate where CMHC ceremonies take place. I must say that after the most recent intervention I have my doubts whether this is a wise idea.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: That is a bright remark, Danson.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, perhaps if all the seals over there want to stop barking we can get on with this.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, in spite of the partisan comments of the minister, which I do not think were in order in reply to a question as simple as that, I wonder if the minister can handle a simple question. Perhaps he cannot give a proper answer, but will he send members of parties other than the government party the same letter he sent to Liberal members of parliament?

An hon. Member: Come on Barney, give us an answer.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact there has been, and I am going to send at the same time another letter, and I assume that those who represent me personally would be representing the supporters of my government.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REASON FOR REMOVAL OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM FORT SMITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL—POSSIBILITY OF REPLACEMENT

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of which I gave him notice. The administration of the Northwest Territories and the federal government set up adult vocational training courses in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, which have met with considerable success, for which the government can be given credit. I would like to ask the minister to explain why it was seen fit to remove the heavy equipment from the Fort Smith school and send it to the "Hire North" site project which is to build the Mackenzie highway, particularly after the mayor and the council of Fort Smith were given assurance by the Northwest Territories government in May 1974, at which time CBC staff members and other press people were present?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, from the information I have been given, it is my understanding that this move was necessary so that instructors could give on-the-job site training to the native people who are being trained to work on the "Hire North" project. In addition I understand there was consultation just a couple of days ago, on the 19th, when Assistant Commissioner Hancock met with the council in Fort Smith to discuss the matter.

● (1200)

Mr. Firth: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same minister. Now that the federal government has taken this equipment from the Northwest Territories training school at Fort Smith, will that equipment be replaced?

Mr. Buchanan: That is something I will have to look into to obtain a reply for the hon. member.