

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, January 19, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

**MR. DUMONT—INTERFERENCE OF MEMBER FOR
DOLLARD IN THE PREPARATION OF
CBC PROGRAM**

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I want to remind the House that on Wednesday, January 14, at 2 p.m., I received a phone call at my office, asking me to prepare to appear on a CBC broadcast on Nigeria-Biafra which was to include participants from the four parties represented in the House. At 4 p.m. the same day, the broadcast was cancelled by another telephone call.

Well, on Friday, January 16, at 10.15 p.m. on *Format 60*, only a representative of the Liberal party appeared on the program. I therefore accuse the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and member for Dollard (Mr. Goyer) of having prevented the representatives of the CBC here in Ottawa from preparing a broadcast where the four parties would have been able to make their voices heard and of having requested the Montreal bureau of the CBC to prepare a broadcast where he alone would speak favourably on behalf of the government.

If the Nigeria-Biafra issue is to be presented favourably to Canadian citizens, the voice of the opposition should be heard. I therefore ask that an inquiry be initiated in order to find out who is to be blamed, because the population needs to know the whole truth about the Nigeria-Biafra dispute and must in no way be muzzled by this government, particularly in view of the fact that the Crown Corporation is financed by all Canadians, who have a right to unbiased and detailed information.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Dumont) has given the Chair advance notice of the question of privilege he intended to bring to the attention of the House today.

I have had since then the opportunity of studying the matter raised by the hon. member. I wish to point out to him that, even though, under the circumstances he set forth, he had a substantiated claim against the parliamentary secretary to the minister or against the CBC, this would not be necessarily a *prima facie* case of privilege.

I do not see how the special rights or parliamentary privileges of the hon. member have been affected in any way whatsoever under the circumstances he described.

I must reach the conclusion that the matter cannot be considered any further, and I must add that, in view of the fact that the hon. member did not move any motion, his question of privilege cannot be studied any longer by the House.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[English]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

**MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT
OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

On the order: Motions—Mr. Yewchuk:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development presented on December 16, 1969, be concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Athabasca.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to take exception to the propriety of putting on the order paper at this point the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Athabasca to which you have just referred.

The basis of my argument will be that as a private member, lacking any authority whatsoever from this particular committee, the hon. member cannot, according to our rules, raise the question he proposes to raise, which amounts to a motion to concur in a substantive proposal, which can only be done by a private member by way of a private member's notice of motion.