

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 8, 1972

The House met at 2 p.m.

PRIVILEGE

MR. O'CONNELL—CORRECTION OF "GLOBE AND MAIL"
REPORT ON LOCAL INITIATIVES PROJECT IN
SCARBOROUGH EAST

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I rose on a question of privilege and I should like to renew it at the first opportunity today. I rise to correct two inaccuracies in a report appearing on page 4 of yesterday's *Globe and Mail* with respect to a local initiatives project in the constituency of Scarborough East. The report indicates that I gave assurances that a group known as Scarborough Pollution Probe would receive an opportunity for youth grant. I did not give such assurances, Mr. Speaker. I did assure this group, which is an excellent one doing a lot of good work, of my interest, and I am sure I would endorse any project that comes forward.

The other inaccuracy concerns the suggestion that as part of the local initiatives project for which this group did receive some funds—I endorsed that project, as all members of parliament had an opportunity of doing in their own constituencies—there would be two taped interviews which might be broadcast on cablevision or television, using the facilities of Scarborough College to produce the tapes. I simply want to make it clear that I will not be part of any local initiatives project that I endorse.

I have no complaint about the reporters responsible for the report, but I thought it was important to clarify these inaccuracies. I may well be taped by Scarborough Pollution Probe and I would be happy to be so taped, but I do not want to be part of any local initiatives project.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has not followed up his argument or presentation with a motion, so I assume that the Chair is not required to rule whether there is a legitimate question of privilege here. In any event, I would suggest to the minister that in my view this is not a prima facie case of privilege and that the matter should not be further pursued.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, since the question of privilege raised by the minister was, as far as we are concerned tantamount or similar to a statement on motions, and in view of the fact that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may think it is tantamount to a statement on motions, but from day to day I hear alleged questions of privilege which in my view are tantamount to statements on motions, and I would not think they should be considered as such. I did express the view that in my opinion this is not a question of privilege. The minister sought to correct what he

thought was an erroneous interpretation of the situation. I would think that that kind of matter should not be raised in the House by way of a question of privilege, and it certainly should not give rise to a debate at this time by way of privilege.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

CANADA CANCER FOUNDATION BILL

PROVISION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-168, respecting cancer research.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Badanai: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to focus attention on the necessity of research to arrest the dreadful disease of cancer. The bill establishes the Canada Cancer Foundation to which any individual person or organization and governments may contribute money in a drive to find the cause and a cure for cancer.

• (1410)

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

*INVITATION EXTENDED BY DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO UNITED STATES PRESS AND
BROADCASTING REPRESENTATIVES

Question No. 132—**Mr. McIntosh:**

1. Has an invitation been extended by the Department of External Affairs to United States press and broadcasting representatives to come to Ottawa, at the expense of the Canadian public, on February 28 and 29 and, if so, for what purpose?
2. What are their names and media affiliations?
3. How many of the firms are presently represented in the Press Gallery and what is the name of the present representative of each in the Gallery?
4. Is it the intention of the Canadian Government to pay their transportation and hotel expenses?