

I wonder if the minister can advise this House where that legislation is in the process and when we can expect it to be tabled.

Mr. Harvie Andre: I am sorry I do not have that information offhand. I will have to look into it, discuss it and find out just where it is and I will get back to the hon. member.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): This morning I sent the government House leader a letter suggesting a very prompt, quickly dealt with motion of congratulations for the Canadian winners of the American Grammy awards yesterday. I was just wondering if the House leader or another member of the Privy Council has any intention of bringing forward such a motion today or tomorrow.

Mr. Andre: I could not get it on the cabinet agenda this morning. You can understand we may have other items of some significant import to discuss.

Like everybody else, I am proud of these two Canadian singers for their awards. As an Albertan I am proud of k.d. lang and as an Albertan I am proud of Céline Dion because she eats beef. However, I do not know if we need a government decision to express that pride.

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): I wonder if the government is contemplating a statement in this House by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the aboriginal fisheries strategy, which has become an extremely important issue on the coast of British Columbia. With the adjournments that are planned in the House it looks like there will be no opportunity to provide a debate on an extremely important issue to aboriginal people in British Columbia and to all those involved and dependent on that fishery.

I wonder if this has come up on the government agenda and whether it might be possible to have the minister make a statement on progress on the work on the aboriginal fisheries strategy.

Mr. Andre: My understanding is that it is more likely to get a statement out of the minister than to get a policy position out of the NDP.

Privilege

• (1540)

PRIVILEGE

COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Question Period under the protection of parliamentary immunity, the member for Mississauga East stated, as is reported on page 16386 of *Hansard*:

According to the chair of the kangaroo committee on poverty, children would have to be naked, homeless or on the brink of starvation before being considered poor.

This is a slanderous, bald-faced lie which impugns not only me but also our committee which has undertaken an important study designed to improve government accountability on the important issue of poverty.

Failing an immediate apology, I ask that you refer this matter to the appropriate House committee for disciplinary action.

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, when a committee of the House, established ostensibly for the Canadian poor is under the leadership of someone who questions the motives of food bank operators, disputes the necessity for food banks and does not believe Canada's poor are really poor at all, I would say that Canada's poor are ill-served.

As someone who has experienced childhood poverty firsthand, I find the member's attitude and behaviour certainly like that of an idle spectator who really does not understand poverty at all and whose head and heart are mesmerized by the Ivy League in the United States.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully to the intervention of both hon. members. The complaint of course is that one hon. member has been described in an uncomplimentary way and in reply the hon. member who made the original remarks is carrying on what is obviously a difference of opinion between the two members.

I hope that both the hon. members can resolve their differences. However it is not a question of privilege, it is a matter of debate. There seems to be some concern that the hon. member bringing the complaint said that what was said about her was a lie. Under the circumstances, what she means is that she does not believe there is any truth in that and it is not appropriate to say those things.