

statement from the records of the House because it really is unfounded.

I should like to state further that so far as I am concerned, this is primarily a matter between Mrs. Anderson and the members of the council and the executive committee. Mrs. Anderson had her own desires or ambitions overturned by the executive committee. She obviously felt compelled to take some fairly extreme action to deal with them. It is a matter which should be resolved by that council and by the executive committee.

I should point out to members of the House that on the matter of the constitutional conference, if I am guilty of interference, it was I who suggested originally to the advisory council that the conference be held. It was my suggestion and recommendation that the conference be established. The conference was cancelled by that council on the decision of its president and executive committee last fall. They decided to reschedule it. I believe they had a meeting amongst themselves earlier on to discuss the timing. They came to me as the minister to ask for my opinion and advice, and I gave it to them. I said to them that whatever choice they made, it was up to them. At no time was pressure applied, or manipulation. Those are words used by Mrs. Anderson for her own reasons. I would not attempt to manipulate that council which is an independent body. I respect its opinions, and we as the government respected them when the council made its representation on the constitution and the charter of rights, and we have responded to it.

I would simply say to you, Madam Speaker, and to members of the House, that for the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) to take the one-sided opinion of one person and to make the kinds of charges she has made without any further investigation, without making any effort to see if there was another side to the case, is really an abrogation of my privileges. I would go to the extent of saying that she resorted to grandstanding—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: I would not say this is a laughing matter. I do not think it is a matter which should be used for partisan reasons. What is really at stake is the integrity of that council, and that is a question which should be decided by that council and should not be brought into the forum of partisan politics as the hon. member has done.

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, it comes right down to this: do we accept what the minister said yesterday that the statement of Mrs. Anderson, the president of the council, is inaccurate, or do we accept the minister's assurance to us that he does not make any attempt to interfere with or manipulate the council, particularly the executive committee of that council? If I am asked which I accept, there is no doubt in my mind that I accept what Mrs. Anderson has said because she is the person who has credibility in this country. She is the person, despite being a Liberal appointment, who has had the guts to stand up

to the government and to stand up to the minister over the past several months.

On three occasions the minister publicly stated, once in Montreal, once in Saskatoon, and the third time elsewhere, that he was not happy or satisfied with what the council was doing in its work on the constitutional proposals. He said it was getting "bad legal advice". He did everything possible to undermine the work of that council in preparing its work for the constitutional committee of the House and Senate on the constitutional proposals of his own government. His whole record in the last several months is one of undermining the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and particularly its president. He would dearly love her to resign. He wants to get someone in there as he has some of the vice-presidents there now who are total patsies—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Jewett: That is what he wants. I shall name one in particular because I named her when she was appointed to the council. She was moved out of the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) office, put into the council as a mole—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Jewett: —to keep an eye on the president of the council. She was there to make sure—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss Jewett: Everyone knows this, if the minister does not. No one wanted her on the council, not a single member. She was put on it because the Liberals wanted to have a mole there whom they could trust to do their bidding—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Jewett: The minister knows who I am talking about, as does everyone in the House.

An hon. Member: Who?

Miss Jewett: An otherwise very agreeable person, except in this connection, and her name is Hellie Wilson, and we all know that.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Miss Jewett: The minister is apparently denying the statement made by Mrs. Anderson and repeated in *The Globe and Mail* today. He says she is inaccurate. That is why this matter should go before a committee of the House to get to the truth of it.

I have also other evidence which I will be glad to bring before the committee to investigate its accuracy, namely, that when she was away for a day last week, as I think she said—this was after the minister had agreed to the conference being held and had booked a room for it; do not forget, Madam Speaker, the minister had already arranged for a room to be booked for this mid-February conference and he did that back