

*Privilege—Mr. Cossitt*

I have noticed recently a tendency to move a little in the other direction. Maybe I am incorrect in the way I am observing it, but with all respect I feel that a tendency in this House to move toward limiting speech rather than to go maybe a little too far in the other direction is not in the best interests of freedom of speech and the rights and privileges of members of this House.

**An hon. Member:** What about our privileges?

**Mr. Cossitt:** I hear remarks from the NDP. I do not know what they are saying.

**Mr. Deans:** Why don't we get on with things that are important?

**Mr. Cossitt:** When I tried to raise the subject of interest rates today, they heckled me. That is not important to them. They do not care about interest rates. They do not care about inflation. They do not care about anything.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Cossitt:** This is not the New Democratic Party; "NDP" stands for "no damn principles."

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deans:** You are wasting time.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Madam Speaker, I cannot conclude if those on my left are going to keep up this barrage of nonsense.

**Mr. Deans:** You concluded years ago.

**Mr. Cossitt:** I am still here. I have been here a little longer than the hon. member and I will probably be here when he has gone.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member conclude his question of privilege.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Yes, Madam Speaker. If the parlour pinkos to my left will give me permission to do so, I will be glad to attempt to conclude it in a very few words.

**An hon. Member:** What are you, the big blue behind?

**Mr. Cossitt:** I do not think a remark such as that is worth the dignity of a reply. The hon. member talks about a blue behind. All they are is blue after what happened in the Ontario election.

**Mr. Clark:** They are behind too.

**Mr. Cossitt:** There are other kinds of behinds, like certain animals. I conclude, Madam Speaker, by asking that this matter be given serious consideration. I raise this question not in any way as a severe complaint against the Chair or questioning the judgment of the Chair, but in the interests of members knowing where they can go, cannot go or should go. I ask the Chair to refer it to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections so that they can consider what limits

they would recommend to this House. Madam Speaker, it is very difficult to talk with this bejabbering over on the left.

● (1640)

**Mr. Deans:** Just keep talking, you are making no sense anyway.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Well, the people of Ontario showed they thought you made no sense.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member was just about to conclude and I am dying to hear that conclusion.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Madam Speaker, I would not want the Chair to suffer such a fate, even though I might wish it on the gentleman on the left, so I will conclude by saying that I hope this matter will be given consideration and referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Madam Speaker:** I want to make it quite clear to the hon. member that the determination of a prima facie case of privilege does not necessarily demand a full debate. Nor is it pertinent to submit that, if you can contribute new evidence to the subject which brought forward the question of privilege, that is pertinent to the question itself. I did not establish that the hon. member for Durham-Northumberland (Mr. Lawrence) had a prima facie case of a question of privilege; therefore, the hon. member cannot complain that he was not allowed to speak on it. I could not entertain a question of privilege because quite clearly there was no question of privilege. So I feel that, on the basis of his intervention today, I cannot even think of submitting it to the committee as there is no prima facie case of privilege.

**Mr. Cossitt:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker. I abide by your decision and I will not pursue the matter further because I also respect the wilting health of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans).

**Madam Speaker:** Of course not. The hon. member cannot pursue the matter further because I have ruled on it.

## MR. WILSON—NOTICE OF QUESTION TO BE RAISED

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, at the end of yesterday's question period I gave you notice of my intention to raise a question of privilege relating to an answer I had been given. I wanted to relate that answer to answers given to me on several occasions by the same minister concerning the National Energy Program, and particularly with relation to the activities of drilling rigs in Canada.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. While it is true that the hon. member gave me oral notice yesterday of his intentions, that is not sufficient. He has to give me a written statement, which he did not, so I can hear him another time.

**Mr. Wilson:** Madam Speaker, I will give you notice in writing for tomorrow.