

Starred Questions

Mr. McIlraith: Why mislead the house? No permits were issued at all.

[*Later:*]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. A. Hardie (Mackenzie River): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. This afternoon the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources answered a question of mine, which is No. 74 on the order paper today. I asked for the oil acreages on the mainland of Canada, and he has attempted to mislead the house by adding to the answer he gave me—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hardie: —acreages which—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to remind the hon. member who is stating a question of privilege that it is one of the privileges of all members of this house that members do not have imputed to them a deliberate attempt to mislead. While it is very often said that members have misled the house, it is not in order to say that an hon. member deliberately misled the house, and I would ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement and proceed with his question.

Mr. Hardie: I withdraw that remark, sir; but in any event the minister in answer to my question added acreages in the Arctic islands as though permits had been issued for those acreages, when no permits to date have been issued. My question dealt with permits issued on the mainland of Canada. I am sure the minister would tell the house that no permits have been issued for the Arctic islands, and if he were to—

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure I understand what the question of privilege is which the hon. member is raising. I take it he is dissatisfied with the answer of the minister, but surely that is a matter for debate and discussion at the appropriate place.

Mr. Hardie: He misled the house by adding—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hardie: The part he added was not relevant to the question I asked.

Mr. Speaker: That is a point of order which the hon. member might have taken at the time. I noticed that the minister's answer went beyond the question, and for future guidance I doubt whether that is in accordance with the practice. But points of order of this kind ought to be made at the time.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources whether he considers acreage taken up for oil and

mineral development, which was the subject of a question on April 29, the same as exploratory oil and gas permits, the subject of a question today, both of which he lumped together in his answer.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think this question posed by the Leader of the Opposition can best be answered by letting our minds run back to that unfortunate episode in this house when the Leader of the Opposition took advantage of a question about a partial acreage to try to establish a certain position for the whole north. What I have done here today is to make absolutely certain that there is no misunderstanding about asking for percentages in a certain area, and so I gave the percentages over the whole area. If it is a question of quibbling over permits for oil exploratory licences and oil exploratory permits as related to mineral exploration, I do not think that is the real issue at all.

Mr. Pearson: May I now ask the minister if he would answer the question whether he considers acreage taken up for oil and mineral development the same as exploratory oil and gas permits? Perhaps he would answer that question.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): If I were a Philadelphia lawyer I could probably spend two or three hours in answering this question. It is one which is yes and no at the same time.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): May I direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. In his answer to question No. 74 this afternoon, did the minister include in section (a) as Canadian corporations those corporations in which the majority of common shares are held outside Canada?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to enter into debate here as to the definition of a Canadian corporation, but I think the one we have assumed is the obvious one. If the Canadian corporation is formed in Canada and operated by Canadians with its stock on the market, I do not think I have to go out and examine who owns a major proportion of the common shares, which proportion changes from day to day. I think the sensitivity of the opposition on this subject indicates the tremendous regret they have for the episode of two weeks ago in this house.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING OFFICERS' MESSES

Question No. 81—Mr. Hellyer:

1. Has the Department of National Defence any regulations governing the use that can be made of officers' messes?