

against a matter which they deemed not well taken care of by the government.

As for the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae), I think it is important that he distinguish between rights and privileges given to members and rights and privileges which political parties may extend to them. There is a very important distinction to be made, for the existence of parties is one thing and the existence and procedures of the House of Commons is quite another. I am referring to all the definitions given for a question of privilege. The hon. member will realize that it is extremely restricted, extremely limited and that today, in any case, there was not a question of privilege in the matter raised by the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Cossitt).

Quite obviously the explanation given by the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare was not satisfactory to those who took part in the discussion. But that is no concern of the Chair. I only have to decide whether there is a question of privilege or not and, in my opinion, there is not.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I may have misunderstood what you said or perhaps I was wrongly interpreted, but I want to be sure about the decision you have just rendered. There are two matters and to avoid any mistakes in French, my second language—

[*English*]

I will put the questions to you in English, if I might, Madam Speaker. Am I correct in my interpretation that you have now indicated that even though the hon. member had asked for the right to reserve a question, you are deciding on the question now?

Second—

Mr. Pinard: Right on.

Mr. Clark: I am told by the government House leader, who is in the habit of coaching on these questions, that we are right on. But simply for the purpose of clarification I would also like to know whether it is the ruling of Your Honour that the privileges of the House are not affected when a right is given to members of the House who are here as Liberal members of Parliament but that that right is denied members of the House who are here as Progressive Conservative and New Democratic members of Parliament.

Mr. Andre: That is the question.

Mr. Clark: Simply for certitude, in case I may have misinterpreted the statement made in a language which is my second, I would like to know if my rendition of my interpretation of those two decisions by Your Honour is the correct one.

Mr. Pinard: Ask you advisers. You are wasting our time.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker: I shall repeat in French to make sure I make no mistakes. I said to the hon. Leader of the Opposition

Privilege—Mr. Cossitt

that it was quite clear to me that the minister had not asked for the matter to stand. She simply said she was responding with reservations. She was giving an explanation with reservations considering it has been a while since she has seen the memo. She did not ask the Chair to reserve the matter.

[*English*]

Concerning the second part of the right hon. member's intervention, I have ruled on this question that there is no privilege. I have given the grounds on which my ruling is based, and therefore I have to maintain my ruling. There is no privilege in this question, and I regret to say that I cannot entertain further discussions on that ruling.

Mr. Cossitt: I have just one short point of order, Madam Speaker. Without questioning your ruling, of course, may I ask that you clarify for the House whether it is now a declared necessity that a senior citizen or a senior citizen group must cosy up to a Liberal member who, in turn, must cosy up to the minister in order to get a grant from this government?

An hon. Member: That is not what she said.

Mr. Cossitt: If that is not a question of privilege, I do not know what is.

Mr. Andre: That is the implication of that decision.

Madam Speaker: I think I can clarify that quite rapidly. It is not for the Chair to make any kind of commentary or any evaluation or appreciation on whether the actions performed by this government or by this minister are adequate or not. That was the essence of the hon. member's question of privilege. It is the hon. member's privilege to discuss the actions of the government if he wishes to do so, as long as he follows the rules of this House.

Mr. Andre: Liberals can do anything?

Madam Speaker: My ruling is based solely on the fact that the actions referred to did not prevent the member from performing his functions as a member of Parliament.

Mr. Paproski: That is exactly what happened.

• (1530)

Mr. Taylor: Madam Speaker, following your ruling, may I say that you did not deal with one point—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I cannot entertain any further discussion on that ruling.

Mr. Taylor: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, will Liberal members who have been appointed twins of other party members now have the right to veto Horizon projects in a riding? I think that is vital to this whole thing.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member must understand that I have made no judgment on the question he is now putting. If the hon. member has questions concerning that precise point, he can put them to ministers at question period, or he can