

Indian Affairs

There is no expectation whatsoever that the subject matter of aboriginal rights, under the heading of the motion moved by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands, will be brought forward again by the government.

I submit, therefore, that Your Honour must look at this matter in light of the probability of the matter anticipated, the second report of the Indian affairs committee, being brought before the House within a reasonable time. That is not a valid expectation. The government has declared that it has no intention of letting that subject matter come to a vote. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) has said he is not going to permit parliament to vote upon the report of that committee because he disagrees with it. In a parliamentary democracy such as we operate under, no one man should be able to deny the will of the majority to vote upon a matter. That is what is involved.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member please resume his seat. The Minister rises on a question of privilege. Perhaps the hon. member will allow the Chair to hear the minister, after which I will continue to hear the hon. member.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) said that I denied or refused something or said that this matter will never be debated. I never said that and I ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I really do not think that the hon. member for Skeena has to withdraw the allegation. This is debate between the hon. member and the minister. We are on a point of order. The minister can take part in the debate on the point of order. We have until five or six o'clock this afternoon, so that we have ample time to hear the hon. member, the minister, and others who may want to take part in this interesting discussion.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, that was a very wise decision you made. Even though there was not a question of privilege, and the minister knew it, if the minister is now saying that he is prepared to bring that item before the House again for debate and vote, I will gladly sit down and withdraw my motion. Will the minister say that? No, he will not. That indicates that Your Honour must ask yourself about the probability of the matter anticipated,

the second report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development relating to aboriginal rights, being brought before the House within a reasonable time. I think one must conclude it will not be brought before the House within a reasonable time. As far as the government is concerned, it will not be brought forward at all during this session. Therefore this motion should be held to be in order so that the House can proceed to debate the issue and vote on whether the House endorses the concept of aboriginal rights rather than one man denying the House that opportunity as is the case at the moment.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will appreciate what was indicated to him earlier in the debate, that perhaps the Chair should take the matter under advisement. The objection of the Chair, of course, is not to the regularity of the motion in the sense that it can be allowed to stay on the order paper. The question is whether it can be debated at this or another time while the other motion is still before the House under government orders. That is the difficulty of the Chair. The hon. member has presented an interesting argument which will be considered in due course.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

[Text]

COST OF PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

Question No. 1,844—**Mr. Stackhouse:**

1. What was the cost of the Prime Minister's residence to the government in 1962, 1965, 1969, 1971 and 1972?
2. How many employees, paid by the government, were on the staff of the Prime Minister's residence in the above years?
3. How much money was paid by the government for entertainment at the Prime Minister's residence in the above years?

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): In so far as PMO/PCO is concerned:

	1962-63	1965-66	1969-70	1971-72	1972-73
1. Total cost*	\$22,205	\$34,018	\$38,959	\$48,857	**\$51,800
2. Man-years provided	7	7	7	7	7
3. Entertainment* (included in 1 above)	\$ 2,044	\$ 6,144	\$ 3,307	\$ 2,715	**\$ 2,647

*The Prime Minister's personal payment of \$5,000 per annum for food and lodging (credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the period April 1st, 1962 to October 31, 1972) has not been deducted from 1 above.

**Forecast expenditure.

NOTE: Expenditures given in 1 reflect the cost of maintaining the Prime Minister's residence in accordance with the Official Residences Act and includes staff salaries, utili-

ties, materials, supplies, entertainment and sundry expenses.

[Mr. Howard.]