

trative nature, as well as a quasi-judicial nature on the Board of CBC. I believe that, so it is just not—

Mr. Beatty: It was in order.

Mr. Dingwall: The minister will have an opportunity to stand in his place. He could have done it at Question Period.

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment, just a moment. I have listened very carefully to the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond, the hon. member for Saint-Denis and the government House leader. I am now hearing the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond.

The point is whether or not the question put, which I do not have in front of me yet in “blues” form, is seeking an answer which is within the administrative competence of the government. At the time I thought it was not. I have told the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier very clearly that I would look at it and I would consider the situation. I may ask the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier to address the Chair further, but we are now getting into another debate which goes way beyond the question that has been raised.

There are two issues here. Was the question within the orders? There is another question. As a Canadian I am as aware of the other question as anybody in this Chamber. I have my own views which of course I am not going to say here. We are all aware of the other question, but it is not the place to debate the other question.

I said in my remarks to the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier that it was clear to the Chair that the question raised was serious and in fact very important.

[*Translation*]

However, I would ask all members to give the Chair time to consult the blues, and subsequently, perhaps it would be appropriate to come back to the House. For the time being, however, I don't think it would be appropriate to pursue the second question. The hon. member has the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Dingwall: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker. In determining whether or not the question was in order, it

would seem to me that the Chair must determine whether or not the individual was a private citizen. I submit—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Quite so. I am well aware of the position of this particular individual.

• (1520)

[*English*]

I know perfectly well who this gentleman is and probably so does every member of the House. I am going to be guided by the question as it was put because that is where I made my decision. That is my responsibility.

I would ask hon. members to co-operate with the Chair and allow me to come back to the Chamber and perhaps assist all hon. members.

Again I say to the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond the importance of the second issue is not lost on the Chair.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, the comments which have been referred to by my hon. colleague directly affect the workings of the Government of Canada. Specifics have been made with regard to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, specifics have been made with regard to the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister's Office which I would think come under the direct administration of the Government of Canada, namely the Prime Minister and/or the responsible minister.

Second, we are not asking that Canadians not have freedom of speech. The question was asked today to give the Government of Canada an opportunity to clarify a situation which those of us on this side of the House, and I would presume others, have some real difficulty in understanding the perceived and actual *de facto* linkages between the individual in question and the Government of Canada. That was the purpose behind the question.

Mr. Speaker: I have to do my duty. This is getting into a whole debate about the second question which I just described. There are a lot of members here this afternoon so that could go on all day. It is not appropriate for me to permit that.

I am going to do the very best I can and I think the very best is all that a Speaker can do under the circumstances.