

motion. I am prepared to leave the determination as to breach of privilege to Your Honour. I rise to read some brief remarks from the transcript of the Prime Minister's interview on television. On page 2 of that transcript the Prime Minister is reported to have said, in part:

—which is probably one of the reasons why this crisis has been manufactured by the opposition.

On page 3 he is reported to have said:

There's a crisis being manufactured—

On page 5 he is alleged to have said:

—when the opposition will organize a plot on the third reading of a vote of this kind to defeat a government,—

Finally I shall read the remarks from page 22 which have already been drawn to Your Honour's attention. The Prime Minister is alleged to have said:

That's the way elections should be brought about. Not by this kind of trickery situation last Monday night.

I do not think I need to advise Your Honour whether this is a matter of privilege. But, because I want to make it abundantly clear, on behalf of the members of this party, that we consider these statements to be inaccurate and contrary to the facts—

Mr. Stanfield: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: —and to be a complete distortion of what took place in this house last Monday, I have risen to make my remarks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: Whether inaccurate statements giving a misleading impression of what happened in the house constitute a question of privilege, I am prepared to leave to Your Honour. I wish to say that whatever Your Honour's decision may be, these inaccurate statements will be answered when we have the opportunity to debate the motion of confidence tomorrow; because, since we were merely carrying out the duties of members in this house, we do not propose to have improper motives attributed to us.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: We were trying to oppose with all the powers at our command a piece of legislation which in my opinion was abominable and not in the best interests of the people of Canada. We have a right to oppose such legislation. This was not something that happened just last Monday; we have opposed

Reference to Statement by Prime Minister
this legislation ever since the Minister of Finance announced it in his mini-budget before Christmas. Almost alone last Thursday the members of this party fought this bill in committee. We fought it all last Monday afternoon. The government measure survived a vote in committee by a bare margin of 3 votes.

An hon. Member: After a filibuster.

Mr. Douglas: The government had ample notice that members of this party and of other opposition parties, as a result of the committee vote of 65 to 62 which carried the government measure, had taken strong exception to this measure. The government had ample opportunity to delay the debate on third reading until the next day, to continue the debate on third reading until the next day, or to see that it had sufficient members here to express its point of view in the vote.

I am rising solely to say that we consider the Prime Minister's statements to be unfortunate. They may have been made by the Prime Minister in a moment of hysteria or excitement.

• (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. Pearson: The hysteria is all over there.

Mr. Douglas: But the statements are inaccurate. We propose, Mr. Speaker, if you allow a debate, to discuss this matter at this time. If not, we certainly intend to debate it at the earliest opportunity.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I only wish to say a few words about the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) and accusing the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) of having used rather strong words regarding the opposition, by suggesting, for instance, that there was some collusion and agreement among the various opposition parties to defeat the government.

There was no agreement or collusion among opposition parties. The only thing that happened Monday evening was that the motion introduced by the government with regard to Bill No. C-193 was defeated. That is what happened.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: It is the privilege of the right hon. Prime Minister to say on television that