

Privilege—Mr. Domm

Continuing to quote the parliamentary secretary:

If the hon. member says it is not true, I would remind him of one other fact which he did not bother to tell his constituents in his convenient selection of truths: the announcement to defer made on August 3, 1979, was made by none other than the hon. member for Peterborough himself. The man who now wants to get on the side of right and justice is the man who announced the deferral last August.

In making my case for the question of privilege, Madam Speaker, I would cite three of the several statements by your predecessor which clearly establish that a member has a right to refute untrue statements made concerning him and which establish that privilege is involved if an hon. member has deliberately misled the House. I would cite the ruling of November 15, 1978, at page 1153 of *Hansard*. The Speaker at that time stated:

Order, please. I have given the hon. member the floor . . . The Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) described the position of the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) to the House. If he has been inaccurate in describing that position, the hon. member for Rosedale has the opportunity to say so—

Then on another question of privilege on the same day the Speaker at that time said, as reported at page 1159:

The procedural case is quite simple. Unless I am able to find a deliberate attempt to mislead, I cannot find a question of privilege.

I would like to point out unequivocally that this House has been intentionally or unintentionally misled by the government, both through remarks made last night during the "late show" debate and in this House during the question period today by the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts), and by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston). They stated two things: First, that it was cheaper to keep Parks Canada in Cornwall than in Peterborough, and that is untrue; and, secondly, that it was the member for Peterborough, that is myself, who cancelled the move, or deferred the move for ten months. I would remind members opposite that we were not in office for ten months so we could not have deferred it that long.

In reality, what happened was that this government was sworn in on June 4. We implemented this proposal with Treasury Board approval in August of the same year. We notified the employees shortly thereafter that the move was a reality, and they confirmed the receipt of that notification and acceptance of it overwhelmingly.

This lobbying has created one of the most blatant cases of pork-barrelling, the like of which I have never seen before. I am sure that hon. members tend to discredit my position as a member of Parliament representing my constituents of Peterborough with untruths, statements unfounded by fact, not in accordance with the position of their own party, yet the minister stood up in the House today to say in respect of the statements made by the hon. member for Peterborough that no, they are not true.

I would remind this House that it was the Hon. Hugh Faulkner, a former minister of the environment, who put Parks Canada in place in Peterborough. It was the Hon. Judd Buchanan who first recognized it, and it was the cabinet of the

Liberal government of the Thirtieth Parliament that enacted legislation and informed employees that every move of Parks Canada to Cornwall was temporary. That notice was on the wall when the employees accepted jobs in Cornwall, and they accepted their jobs on that basis.

In reality, what has happened here is that I have been discredited as a member of Parliament representing my constituents in Peterborough. There has been a complete disregard for parliamentary procedure. Questions have been ignored in the House and the members on this side of the House, whose duty it is to question the government on the decisions it makes, have been abandoned, ignored, given false answers and told untruths.

I expect that this House will give favourable consideration to the view of a backbencher who feels that he is accused of telling his constituents not all the truth, as stated in *Hansard* of last night by the parliamentary secretary, who said it is cheaper to keep Parks Canada in Cornwall, which is not true; as when the President of the Treasury Board stands up and says it was our decision to defer the question for that period of time, and when the parliamentary secretary to the minister says it was the hon. member for Peterborough who decided to defer the move.

In reality, it was their own government, their own ministers, their own cabinet, including the President of the Treasury Board and the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment, who put it in place. All we did as the government, not to take credit, was to endorse their recommendation. If they continue to discredit backbenchers in the House, members of the opposition, as they are doing, then I suggest that our system of government is in serious likelihood of deteriorating to the point where the constituents of Canada will lose faith in our parliamentary process.

I would like to move:

That the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment during the adjournment debate on Monday, May 12, 1980, in which, knowingly or unknowingly, he made statements which were the reverse of the truth, namely, that the hon. member for Peterborough announced on August 3, 1979, that the Parks Canada move to Peterborough would be deferred, when in fact the announcement on that date confirmed that the move would take place, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, rising again to speak on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm) regarding the move of Parks Canada from Cornwall to Peterborough, I want to advise the House of this fact. The move was announced last summer by the Conservative government, by myself jointly with the hon. member for Peterborough. It was not a deferral, it was a decision which was made by a government of this country. The statement of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment (Mr. Simmons) is made mischievously, or out of ignorance, or out of deceit. As he speaks for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) then I am sorry to say this, Madam Speaker, but the Minister of the Environment is, for one reason or another, clearly misleading this House.