

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, sit down.

**Mr. Broadbent:** —the preservation of respect for the Chair of the House of Commons, and the recognition in Parliament of the right of the majority of members of Parliament elected by the people of Canada at some point to make a decision on a question.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** We have witnessed for the past three days not parliamentary debate but something that costs the people of Canada \$300,000 a day. That is what the Conservatives are putting the people of Canada through, \$300,000 a day.

**An hon. Member:** What price freedom?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am not sure whether the hon. member for Oshawa is discussing his privilege or his price.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** What is your price, Ed?

**Mr. Broadbent:** That comment from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) reflected all the wit and intelligence that enabled him to last in power as a prime minister for so long.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** I want to say as a Member of Parliament, in addressing my comments to the House to those issues—

**An hon. Member:** We love you, Ed; cross the floor.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, we have been listening ad nauseam for some three days now to the Conservative Party on my right. Perhaps they will listen to the rest of the House now for a few minutes.

I want to address myself to the three areas that are connected with my question of privilege. First of all is the right of the majority of the people of Canada at some point to reach a decision in a debate. We have before us—

**An hon. Member:** The tyranny of the left.

**Mr. Broadbent:** We have in fact the tyranny of the minority of the Conservative Party.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** We are dealing with the constitutional resolution which has probably been debated in the House of Commons longer than any other single matter in the history of the Canadian Parliament. Madam Speaker, just consider the

*Privilege—Mr. Broadbent*

following. The resolution, whether one is for it or against it—and I respect those who are against it in terms of their judgment—

**Mr. Forrestall:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to remind the leader of the NDP that there are a number of us here who sat in this chamber when colleagues in this House to the left delayed the normal process of the business of this chamber for a period of about two years on the question of the writing of a new divorce arrangement into Canadian law.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is totally absurd again. That occurred during private members' hour, and the hon. member knows that very well.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** I would like to continue, Madam Speaker. It is interesting that the Conservatives want the opportunity to talk away, but they object when someone else rises to speak on what they said at different times, on the most important matter to come before Parliament. They have had their say; perhaps we can have ours for just a minute.

We have had the matter before the House for a total length of time of some six months, from the time we started last fall to the present. Before Christmas, some 78 Members of Parliament made speeches on this resolution, and since Christmas over 100 members have spoken, all but two of whom have spoken on one Conservative amendment. In terms of the discussion of this profoundly important matter, a committee met 106 times and its meetings were extended twice under pressure from both opposition parties. The point I want to make is that there were 106 meetings of that committee. Over 1,000 submissions in writing were put before that committee for consideration.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I appreciate the anger of the hon. gentleman, but I must call to your attention the very strict ruling on questions of privilege and order—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** —the very strict ruling on questions of order and privilege which you imposed upon the House yesterday. You spoke about the absolute necessity for all of us at the beginning to found our question of privilege. If the hon. gentleman has a question of privilege, then I would say that it is not because of the length of debate on the issue but rather because of the fact that the government of the day has decided to close debate on the issue.

**An hon. Member:** Supported by the NDP.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** I am beginning to wonder now—

**An hon. Member:** You are a simple minded hypocrite.