

Privilege—Mr. Garneau

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, my remarks, too, will be brief. I listened with a great deal of interest to the presentation of the Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton). It appeared to me that the innuendo was being repeated. I am not saying that the Member for Skeena is making an accusation and I am not for a moment suggesting that I will accept what the Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) says when he says that he is not accusing the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) of anything. The fact is that the question, framed in that way, casts an aspersion, whether or not it is done knowingly. That is not the question. In my mind the problem is whether the question casts an innuendo, whether or not the intent is there. That is the problem we face.

I do not control the activities of the association in my riding. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and to Members of this House that the Minister does not control the activities of the association which works on behalf of him in his riding. It is more than an arm's length transaction. In fact I asked my colleague, the Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper), whether he controls his association and he said that the association controls him. The association determines its own timetable when it does a fundraiser.

My last point is that Mr. Moore, the Vice-President of Amoco, is not identified as such in the letter. The only way that this comes to anyone's attention is when it is raised in the House. In my view, the fact that it was raised in the House further underlines the innuendo, whether or not it was intended.

Mr. Speaker: Keeping in mind that this is an allotted day, the Chair has certainly been very much assisted by the interventions of all Hon. Members and for that I thank them. I will consider the matter and return to the House at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT LAUZON SHIPYARDS

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to raise a question of privilege which, I hope, will not take as long as the one we just heard.

Yesterday, after Oral Question Period, the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) said that I had misinformed the House regarding the number of employees at the Lauzon shipyards. Mr. Speaker, during Oral Question Period, I said that "I learned over the week-end that there are only 400 workers left at the Lauzon shipyards". Mr. Speaker, it was obvious that in my question I was referring to organized workers who are paid by the hour in the shipyards and who are the first to be laid off when work is slack. I was not referring to the engineers and technicians, who usually are not laid off when there is a reduction in the amount of work.

This morning, to make sure, I also called the President, Mr. Jean Roch Brisson, to ask him how many employees were

actually working at the shipyards, and he told me that tomorrow's payroll, dated May 22, would cover 433 employees working directly at the shipyards and paid by the hour. Mr. Speaker, if I did make a mistake, I was out by 33.

Mr. Fontaine: Mr. Speaker, yesterday after the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) asked his question I wanted to check with the shipyard management, so I got in touch with the company public relations spokesman, Mr. René Hallé, who did confirm that the company has 750 employees, not 400 as stated by the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides. Should the Chair so wish I would be in a position to produce the appropriate documents stating the exact number of employees and the source of my information. The House was well informed by the Member for Lévis.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest that this may not be a question of privilege, but I thank the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) and the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) for correcting *Hansard*. Thank you for your attention to the details of the debate.

● (1600)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S. O. 82—ALBERTA ECONOMY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Waddell:

That this House expresses its disappointment with the Government for its failure to deal effectively with the severe economic recession in Alberta which has resulted in, among other things:

- (1) Alberta having the worst performance of any provincial economy in Canada which the Conference Board of Canada has estimated will shrink in over-all terms for the second consecutive year;
- (2) a loss of 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in the oil and gas industry;
- (3) leaving Alberta farmers with 23 per cent of Canada's outstanding farm debt;
- (4) causing on average 600 new families per month to be placed on welfare; and
- (5) Alberta having the highest per capita suicide rate in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: When the House rose at one o'clock, the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) had the floor. I advise the Hon. Member that he has approximately four minutes remaining.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to resume the debate. When we rose at one o'clock I was discussing the matter of using nice, clean British Columbia and Alberta coal for thermo-electrical production in Ontario rather than the dirty coal that comes in from the United States in enormous volumes.