

*Privilege*

corporations of the country. They are not producing these reports on a timely basis.

The one I want to raise, Mr. Speaker, is Atomic Energy of Canada Limited which was required to table its capital budget for 1989-90 on May 30, 1989. It still has not been tabled.

I made inquiries. I contacted the legislative branch and the Library of Parliament and was told that it had not been tabled. I contacted Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and was given the information that it had been forwarded. They were surprised in fact that it had not been tabled. They thought it had been long ago.

The question is: Where is this report? Where is the responsible minister? Why is the minister not dealing with this issue and making sure that the Statutes of Canada are complied with and that these documents are brought in a timely way before the House?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, through you, that the responsible minister take control of this situation, examine the legal requirements in the Statutes of Canada and ensure that these reports are brought to the House. If they are not brought here, I suggest most strongly, Sir, that it constitutes a flagrant contempt of the House. It shows the arrogant attitude that the government displays in its dealings with the House of Commons.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State to Prime Minister and Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands sometimes gives me the impression he has been reading old editions of *Hansard* and some of my submissions to the House of Commons.

I did not have the nerve to suggest it was a question of privilege, which it obviously is not, but I do recollect raising a substantial point of order. The Liberal government of the day flagrantly showed contempt, or what have you, by not filing the annual reports, documents and so on required in various Statutes of Canada. I remember working myself up into a rather fine state of indignation and outrage at the arrogant Liberal government. For the life of me, I cannot at the moment recall what retort the then House leader and now Leader of the Opposition in the Senate gave to me, but I remember I did not get very far. Somewhere in the records, there is

an excellent retort from the then House leader of the Liberal government, now the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.

That being said, with respect to the specific question of the report of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for which he is looking, I will talk to my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, to determine what reason might be given for the delay. I can think of some right now because of changes that are occurring. Rather than present an inaccurate report that meets the deadline, he may well be delaying to have a more accurate report even though delayed.

I hear the hon. member's submission. I humbly suggest that his claim that this represents a huge contempt and a breach of his privileges as a member will be found from the precedents with which I am familiar not to have any basis.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with interest to both the point raised by the member for Kingston and the Islands and the response from the government House leader. It just goes to show you that things do not change.

**Mr. Milliken:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to respond, first to the comment, the gratuitous and unctuous comment, from the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan, but it is the government House leader I would like to deal with.

I thank him for the offer to deal with the question of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, but in view of his vast experience in this matter and having raised apparently similar issues as a point of order, perhaps that is where he made his mistake. He should have done it as a question of privilege, because I am sure Your Honour will find this is a contempt of the House. I hope that he will urge his colleagues to comply with the law.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** We will take all of these comments into consideration and have another look at the matter. I know the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands has forcibly mentioned exactly what has to be done as far as the government is concerned, and I think we should carry on now and go to Routine Proceedings.