

Privilege—Mr. Kaplan

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, the legislation my hon. colleague is talking about is actually under consideration by cabinet. When it has received final approval it will be introduced in due course. Whether that will be in this session and whether it will be before the end of June, I regret to say I am not in a position to confirm or deny at this time. I can tell the hon. member that since he has been confident, polite and optimistic in the past, there is no reason he should change.

Mr. Waddell: On a point of order, Madam Speaker. On Monday, June 8, as reported at page 10350 of *Hansard*, I asked a question of the President of the Privy Council with respect to the government's intentions on Bill C-48, the oil and gas bill. He replied that he would be in a position to give me a more detailed answer on Thursday.

This being Thursday, I wonder if the minister is in the position to answer my question, which specifically dealt with the request that the government not proceed with Bill C-48 in this session. It is in committee now and people in the north, specifically native people, have expressed the wish that they be given more time to make their representations on this bill. Is the minister now in a position to tell this House that it is the government's intention not to deal with this bill in this session of Parliament but to wait until the fall to deal with Bill C-48?

Mr. Pinard: No, Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to give that assurance to the hon. member. However, I have been told that the minister responsible for energy is talking to the energy critics of both opposition parties with a view to coming to some arrangement to dispose of the committee stage of this bill. Obviously, depending on the results of his negotiations, I cannot at this time state what will be done with that bill. Whether it is reported before the end of June or before the summer adjournment, or whether he will deal with it in third reading in the House or at report stage, which is what the hon. member is asking, I prefer to wait for the results of the negotiations between the minister, the hon. member himself and the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson). I will then be in a better position to give some clear indications to the hon. member with respect to this bill. But at this stage I prefer to leave the matter to the minister of energy, who is trying to come to some agreement to dispose of this bill.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. KAPLAN—S.O. 43 MOTION OF MR. FRIESEN

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which arises out of a motion proposed under the provisions of Standing Order 43 by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen). In that motion, statements were attributed to me which I did not make. I would like to set the record straight.

It was suggested by the hon. member that I had threatened that if the RCMP unionized I would reduce their size by 3,000 men—

Mr. Elzinga: He never said "unionized".

Mr. Kaplan: The hon. member asked whether I had spoken to the provincial attorneys general about this matter. In fact, I did not threaten that the RCMP would be reduced by 3,000 men.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Kaplan: I did indicate that if the RCMP did organize, their mandate would have to be reconsidered.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The minister does not have a question of privilege. He is obviously trying to set the record straight, but there are other opportunities to do that.

Mr. Friesen: I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. I feel I must correct the record. I did not use the word "unionize". I think the Solicitor General—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. This is exactly what happens when hon. members start to correct the record.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Fifth report of Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry—Miss Campbell.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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[*English*]

PETITION

MR. DARLING—REINSTATEMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, at this time I have the privilege to present a petition containing some 30,000 names which have been gathered together by the wives of the Ontario Provincial Police at the Huntsville, Ontario detachment. The wives are sitting in the gallery at this time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Darling: There are names on the petition representing people from one coast to the other and, particularly, there are a great many names from the provinces of British Columbia and Quebec. The petition states that the undersigned are firmly convinced that capital punishment constitutes a reasonable and effective deterrent to criminal homicide of police