

Perhaps we do not have two reports, as the minister says, but if there is only one report, we have before us two interpretations of the same report which are very different. Off-hand, I have the impression that it is a different interpretation of the facts, but to make sure, I shall take that question as notice, because it is very important.

[English]

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, since I failed to do so while I was speaking, I wonder if I might have permission now to table this document.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: The minister may table the document.

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, I am in your hands as to one matter. The document is in English only at the moment. A translation can be prepared.

Madam Speaker: That is the minister's choice. If he wishes to table it now in one language only, he may do that. If he wishes to defer, I will accept that, too.

Some hon. Members: Table it.

MR. ROBINSON (BURNABY)—STATEMENT MADE BY MR. KAPLAN

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I recognize the ruling you have made, but there is another matter which arises from the remarks the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) has just made to which I must draw attention. The minister has again misled the House in the remarks he just made.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member feels he has some reason to rise again, he may do so on a new question of privilege.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): That is what I am doing.

Madam Speaker: The discussion is now closed. The hon. member has had an opportunity to present his point and the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) has replied. I have to close the discussion in so far as that question of privilege is concerned.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): With respect, Madam Speaker, this is a new question of privilege arising out of the minister's response. The minister once again misled the House on a very fundamental question of fact in his reply to my initial question of privilege. The minister indicated that on October 30 he stated:

Now, you say the inmates were beaten and gassed. I categorically can deny that because independent witnesses were present during the time that took place.

The minister said that at that particular time on October 30 he knew there was another independent inquiry, that a special inquiry was under way into these allegations and on that basis he was giving the response he gave on that point. That simply is not true. On October 30, 1980, this special inquiry had not even been commissioned. For the minister to suggest that he

Privilege—Mr. S. J. Robinson

knew this special inquiry report would be forthcoming very shortly and on the basis of certain information which he had, to be supplemented by the special inquiry report, he made the false and misleading statement that he did, is false and is misleading this House. I call upon the minister to admit that a decision was not made to have another special inquiry into these allegations until well after that, in the month of November.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, my friend was reading from a report of the justice committee. I do not have the report in front of me. I believe I have been before the justice committee three times. Each time I have been asked extensive questions about the incident at Dorchester.

I was under the impression the hon. member was reading from a statement I made during my most recent appearance when I was anticipating this report. At that time I was asked the same questions he had asked me the time before. The answer sounded like the one I gave when, as I say, I appeared there the last time.

Of course I did not know in October that this second report would be justified or called for. Therefore, the hon. member is quite right about that. I will retract that statement if I have his permission to do so. I knew at that time when we were talking on October 30—well, Madam Speaker, I am trying to recall now. I want to be very precise about the times. I cannot be, because on at least three separate occasions before the justice committee I have been questioned about this.

The report of the incidents that took place following the hostage-taking have been made public. You, Madam Speaker, and the public generally can draw conclusions from it.

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I would like to say a few words with respect to the question of privilege. I am not too sure which one we are on. They both amount to the same thing, namely, that the justice committee and this House have been misled by the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) with regard to the contents, the interpretation and the misapprehension he has deliberately attempted to convey to the committee, the House and the public. I refer to the contents of investigative reports resulting from the great tragedy which took place in Dorchester in connection with the death of guard Bill Morrison and the results of the various investigations which have taken place with regard to that tragedy.

I do not know which one we are on. It does not matter much to me. We are on the second one? That's fine. They all fit in together in a pattern in any event. The pattern has been that the minister has intentionally attempted to leave the wrong impression in the committee and in this House as to what happened at the time and since that tragedy, and also with regard to the various investigating groups.

The tragedy in Dorchester Penitentiary took place on a Friday night. On the following Monday in this House, the minister was asked if a report would eventually be made to the House. The minister very deliberately said that within a few days the group he had set up would be reporting to him and,