

Privilege—Miss MacDonald

The president of the advisory council has threatened to resign. I have not asked for her resignation. She is the one who has been carrying the public offensive. I am simply trying to keep the facts clear. I would suggest to members of the House that the best way to ensure the integrity and independence of the council is to allow it the right to decide on its own issues, not bring them into this House, as the hon. member has done.

● (1510)

If we have any concern, it is to make sure that the autonomy of that council is protected. That autonomy will not be protected by constant interference or intervention, or trying to find an issue that would bring it into another forum. The best way to protect the independence of the council is to show that we trust it to make its own decision.

In reply to the assertion of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) I would simply say that I was reading from and reporting a statement. If there is an inaccuracy in that statement or if there is a difference of opinion between Mrs. Anderson and the executive committee, it should be resolved between them. I was not party to those meetings nor, as I have said, was I party to any of the discussions concerning the time of the conference until the executive committee requested a meeting with me to ask my opinion, which I gave. That is the only time I discussed the matter with any member of the executive committee in a direct fashion. That was the only time in which I raised—had the issue raised with me. I gave them my opinion and judgment and left it at that, saying it was up to the council to make a decision.

I would simply say, Madam Speaker, that there is no question of privilege. There is obviously a difference of opinion, but the best place for that to be resolved is in the council itself. That is the best way that both the interests of the hon. member and of myself can be maintained while protecting the council's independence.

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I should just like to say that the advisory council meets tomorrow. I am confident, as I am sure I have every reason to be, that it will fully support Mrs. Anderson in her valiant attempt to ensure that the independence of the advisory council is maintained. I am sure we will discover that that will have been accomplished, tomorrow.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid that the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) has not argued that her question of privilege is founded in a way that has satisfied me. The fact that an alleged or real conflict which might have occurred—

Miss MacDonald: A real conflict.

Madam Speaker:—between the minister and the president of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women has accelerated or has been accentuated, does not in itself constitute a question of privilege. It might be a serious matter and a matter which might have very serious consequences as well—

Miss MacDonald: It sure will.

Madam Speaker:—but it is not within my purview to rule upon that kind of question. This is merely a matter of a difference of opinion, a difference of interpretation, between two members of this House, and therefore I must rule that there is no question of privilege.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

RAILWAYS

TABLING OF INQUIRY REPORT RESPECTING MISSISSAUGA ACCIDENT

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table documents which have to do with questions falling under the administrative responsibility of the government. I therefore take this opportunity to make public in the House the report of the inquiry into the Mississauga railway accident whose author, as hon. members know, is Mr. Justice Samuel Grange.

[English]

I might add, Madam Speaker, that Justice Grange is honouring us with his presence in the gallery of the House this afternoon, with some of his dedicated staff.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 254, 739, 1,599, 1,763, 1,822, 1,825, 1,831 and 1,837.

[Text]

AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION AND SALES

Question No. 254—**Mr. Herbert:**

1. What percentage of the new automobile sales in Canada in (a) 1977 (b) 1978 were (i) fully manufactured in Canada (ii) partly manufactured in Canada (iii) imported?
2. What are the estimated percentages for 1979?
3. What was the percentage of Canadian content of the cars partly manufactured in Canada in 1977 and 1978 and what is the estimated percentage for 1979?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Statistics Canada reports: there are no automobiles sold in Canada which are fully manufactured in Canada, in the sense that all