

Privilege—Mr. Wright

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is debating the question. I want to caution the hon. member when he says that he has been misled. That has to be qualified. It is a serious allegation to say in the House that a minister has deliberately misled the hon. member. The hon. member did not say it. The first time the hon. member said "inadvertently" and the second time the hon. member did not say "inadvertently", but I am sure that the hon. member did want to say "inadvertently". I want to caution the hon. member because on two occasions I was about to rise to my feet to caution him. That is what I am now doing.

If the hon. member feels that the answer he received is not satisfactory, then the hon. member may ask the question during question period tomorrow or in subsequent days to try to elicit a more satisfactory answer. However, this does not constitute a question of privilege.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that we do have this apparent misstatement on the record, and because the Minister of Finance is present in the House, I wonder if the minister could be given an opportunity to explain why he feels his answer was accurate or not, in keeping with the documents that were filed on budget day.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. No. The minister may have an opportunity at another time but not now.

MR. WRIGHT—NOTICE OF QUESTION TO BE RAISED

Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North): I did give notice to the Chair earlier today with regard to my question of privilege. I rise on this question of privilege to question my inability to deal with my constituents relating to the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais)—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member resume his seat? I had almost forgotten the notice of the question of privilege that the hon. member provided to me. I must tell the hon. member the notice did not contain the statement that is required by the Standing Orders and, therefore, the hon. member would have to renew that notice and provide the Chair with a statement of the matter he would like to raise as a question of privilege. The hon. member did not do that in his notice. I have to be very straightforward with regard to that point because the Chair must have the opportunity to look into the matter in advance so as to prepare a possible ruling and to cite references that may be necessary for that ruling. It is normal courtesy to provide this information to the Chair and, at any rate, it is required under the Standing Orders.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

THE BUDGET

NOTICE OF PRESS RELEASE ON MERGERS AND CORPORATE REORGANIZATIONS

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as I indicated to the House leaders, I will advise the House that I will be issuing a press release after the stock markets close on the subject of mergers and corporate reorganizations establishing certain transitional rules, as these have been affected by budgetary action. I am giving notice to the House because it is a budgetary matter. I cannot release the details now, until the stock markets close, but I will do that later.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I am amazed that the minister would make the same mistake two days in a row. The minister has just made the statement that he will make some announcements with regard to transitional rules on mergers and acquisitions. It is clear to anyone in the marketplace that the company involved is Dome Petroleum Limited with regard to the proposed merger with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Limited. It is incredible that the minister would make this statement after he made the same mistake yesterday of announcing while the markets were open that the rules would change with regard to MURB, which caused an increase in the share price of those companies involved with MURB. I think the minister would have learned from his previous mistake. It is incredible for the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), who has been in this House and in this position for a long period of time to make the same mistake twice. I should think the minister would demonstrate better judgment than that.

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PETITIONS

MR. CORBETT—VIA RAIL—RESTORATION OF RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): I present herewith a petition of over 1,400 names to be added to the 19,000 names that I laid upon the table of Canadians who are requesting that passenger rail service in this country be restored.

These people are asking that the government and, in particular, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) not isolate mothers from sons and daughters, husbands from wives, the elderly from comfort and warmth, and exhibit an attitude of kindness and understanding to replace that of a demented slaughterhouse butcher.

MR. WISE—EFFECTS OF HIGH INTEREST RATES

Hon. John Wise (Elgin): Earlier today I had the opportunity to personally present a list of 250 protest letters to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I now have the very unpleas-