

I raise this question of privilege in a reluctant way, Madam Speaker, because in my short experience in the House I have found the President of the Privy Council to be an honest, straightforward, honourable member. Nevertheless, I take the opportunity to raise this question of privilege so that he can clarify his statement to the House. His statement was clearly misleading: it clearly said that there would be no announcement. Then suddenly, two hours later, there was an announcement. I will send it up to you so that you can see it for yourself.

My question is that I and perhaps other hon. members, perhaps inadvertently, have been misled by the statement made by the President of the Privy Council.

Madam Speaker: Unless the hon. member tells the House that he was intentionally misled by the House he does not have a question of privilege. If he feels that he might have been misled inadvertently, then of course he knows that there is no foundation for a question of privilege. If the press release, in his view, was not in conformity with statements made in the House, that is a debatable question and, of course, he may debate it. Even if the hon. member wanted me to look at all of these statements to determine whether there were discrepancies in them, it is not for the Chair to establish discrepancies.

If these statements, in the mind of the hon. member, do not seem to conform with what was said in the House, unless he is prepared to tell me that the minister has intentionally misled him—and he has not done that—I cannot find the basis for a question of privilege.

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker—

Madam Speaker: I do not know why the hon. member always rises when I make a ruling on a question. He has to accept the ruling. Once in a while I may allow that he may have a point of order, but the hon. member is in the habit of rising every time I make a ruling.

This is the ruling; there is no question of privilege. I do not see what we can add to that discussion.

Mr. Waddell: A point of order, Madam Speaker. I understood from what you were saying that you were not making your formal ruling but were asking me if I was saying that the minister perhaps had—

Madam Speaker: No, I was not saying that. It was quite clear that I was ruling.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. FULTON—INQUIRY RESPECTING MOTIONS FOR PRODUCTION OF PAPERS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my point of order is really a question for the Parliament Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith). On June 19, 1981, I placed on the Order Paper Motions Nos. 62, 63 and 64 for

Tabling of Documents

the production of documents related to the Amax project. It is eight months since I requested this material yet it has been released to people who are not members of this House, members of the general public. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could tell me when these documents are likely to be tabled, since the motion has been on the Order Paper for some eight months.

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I will look into the question. I recall that last week and, I think, the week before, we were prepared to deal with one of the items standing in the name of the hon. member on the day scheduled for the production of papers. He was not here so we did not proceed. I shall have to inquire whether that is the one he refers to. I will look into the matter.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

DISASTERS

TABLING OF INSPECTION REPORTS ON "OCEAN RANGER" DRILLING RIG

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I should like to table two safety inspection reports on offshore drilling operations that were referred to in the House yesterday and today. Unfortunately I have only the English text, but I understand that hon. members want to have this urgently. I would be willing to attach a translation to this text, if the House agrees, as soon as we can get a translation done.

Madam Speaker: Shall it be tabled in one language only?

● (1510)

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker that is agreeable, and we thank the minister. Could he tell us whether these constitute the entire number of inspection reports on the *Ocean Ranger*?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, in the House yesterday there was reference to two inspections last month. There is an inspection every two weeks. There is a pile of inspection records on all drill ships which have operated off the east coast. I suggest that all other reports should be referred to the commission of inquiry, which has been set up today, and be the subject of evidence, if the commission counsel and the chairman of the commission wish to have access to those documents.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Madam Speaker, I agree with this procedure on the condition that the