

*Privilege—Mr. Oberle*

the way an hon. member discusses his question of privilege. I think I will not hear the hon. member for more than five minutes more.

**Mr. Oberle:** Madam Speaker, it may be true that I have been speaking for 20 minutes, but it is also true that you have interrupted me four times in that period. Every time you do, Madam Speaker, I get to the point where I find it very difficult to restrain my temper.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Oberle:** Madam Speaker, if you want to know how my privilege is affected, there is a scheme afoot between this government and the government of British Columbia to build in my constituency, no more than 30 miles away from my home, a new town to house 10,000 people, and I am not being told what it is all about. I have a difficult time getting any information from this government in order to make any contribution to this debate. The minister has tabled in this House a document which shows that there have been 42 studies in connection with this project. I suppose I can get hold of any one of those studies and look at them, but of the 42 studies not one deals with the socioeconomic effects of this whole mega-project. There is not one that deals with native people who will be affected by this project. There is no information about that. There is reference to one study which deals with public information. It is yet incomplete. It is to be a public information brochure. There are 42 other studies which deal with archeological projects, fish and wildlife, but nothing about people. That is my question of privilege.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Oberle:** Does anybody in this House care about people any more? That is my question of privilege. I demand the right to access to information, not just because I am a member of Parliament in this House, but because I am a citizen of an area of Canada where the future lies and on which all of Canada depends. I do not demand access to that kind of information just because I am a member of the House or because I am a member of this privileged class of which I have given Your Honour some examples—and I could give some more. I want to know all about this project because I am chosen by the people of that crucial area to represent them and to represent them adequately in this House, and my people are being denied a voice in this House by these people opposite who act as if they were in this world alone and as if everything which has gone on before should no longer be. They act as if they had better ideas. They think we should change the Constitution and entrench rights. They think they know best what everyone's rights are. That is my question of privilege. I admit that had it not been for this arrogance—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Oberle:** The sheep on the other side are baaing. If I pause for a moment, Your Honour can hear it through the microphones. They are trained sheep on the other side, and they are baaing.

We are into a very serious debate in this House. We are shaking the very foundation of this institution because Members of Parliament are no longer fulfilling the role they were elected to fulfil. As indeed the Prime Minister once said, Members of Parliament are nobodies when they leave this institution and when they are gone. But as long as we are here, in the confines of these four walls, I have the right to speak. I do not care what this demagogue tells me when I leave this House, because the people of Canada will judge him sooner or later. But as long as I am here, I will speak for my constituents. I will demand information about what these people are doing to my constituents and to my country. And, Madam Speaker, my question of privilege is that you have a responsibility to ensure that, so long as I am between these four walls, these people will listen. I have the right to speak, and if they do not want to listen, they can go out behind the curtain and carry on with their parties and phone their privileged friends all over the country and do whatever they want, but I want the right to speak and I do not want to be interrupted 15 times just because it takes me a little longer than the next guy to make a point.

• (1750)

Now, I hope I have made my point. If you find that I have a question of privilege, I want you to allow me to take my case before the appropriate committee of this House. I do not want you, Madam Speaker—and you would not want the burden—to rule on whether or not I have a case, that is why we have the committee of privileges and elections, but you cannot forever hold back this anger and frustration; it will boil over. And when it does, we all, the country and this institution, will suffer. So I plead with you, Madam Speaker, to take one of these questions of privilege and let it go to committee and let them decide whether these people are behaving in a manner which is not traditional and which is not consistent with the great history of this country.

**Madam Speaker:** I think the hon. member has an indication of what I am going to say. He certainly has indicated to this House that he is obviously quite concerned about the matter he has raised, and I am sure the House has noted his concern, but the matter he has raised is one for debate, certainly; it is perhaps a very serious one but that is not for me to determine. The hon. member is right, I do not rule on questions of privilege, I must only find whether there is a prima facie case, after which the matter might be sent to a committee for study, but I am unable to find a prima facie case on this particular question.

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**POINT OF ORDER**

MR. RAE—EARLY DETERMINATION BY MADAM SPEAKER OF PRIMA FACIE CASE

**Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood):** Madam Speaker, I suppose after what has happened the last four or five days none of us mind that the House is being used as a forum for