

*Question of Privilege*

all hon. members have completed their discussion of the question of privilege raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** The right hon. Leader of the Opposition did not follow through on his question of privilege with a motion. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, there is nothing now before the house. We have had a little discussion about a matter of great interest, but there is not now a motion before the house. As a result I call upon the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam to pose his question of privilege.

MR. DOUGLAS—NEWS BROADCAST RESPECTING VOTERS' LIST IN BURNABY-COQUITLAM CONSTITUENCY

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege relating to a document tabled in this house which was publicly misquoted on the television news at eleven o'clock last evening. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation stated that the names of 40 per cent of the voters in the constituency of Burnaby-Coquitlam appeared on voters' lists in other constituencies of British Columbia.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Douglas:** This statement was supposedly based on a letter written 11 months ago to the special committee on privileges and elections by one Mr. Moreland T. Brown of Coquitlam. This statement made on the C.B.C. news is a complete distortion of what Mr. Brown wrote in his letter, which was tabled in this house and a photostatic copy of which I have in my hand. On page 2 of his letter Mr. Brown said:

Poll one, Burnaby-Coquitlam was duplicated elsewhere in B.C. to the extent of 40 per cent.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Douglas:** I point out, Mr. Speaker, that the statement made by Mr. Brown was in relation to poll 1 and not in relation to the entire voters' list in the constituency of Burnaby-Coquitlam.

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

**Mr. Douglas:** Furthermore, neither Mr. Brown nor the C.B.C. made any attempt to outline the nature of poll 1. It is a logging camp poll situated in the extreme northeast corner of the constituency. The list contained 68 names, all of whom are connected with logging operations. As anyone familiar with logging camps will know, such workers are

extremely transitory, moving from one logging operation to another.

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** On election day?

**Mr. Douglas:** These workers, anxious as they are to exercise their democratic right to vote—

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

**Mr. Douglas:**—will, as a result, find their names entered on more than one list. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that poll 1, which is located at a place called Alvin at the north end of Pitt lake, is almost 100 miles from most of these men's homes, and therefore the fact that they appeared on their home polls and at Alvin is certainly not surprising.

In fairness to the Burnaby-Coquitlam returning officer and the enumerators I trust that steps will be taken by the C.B.C. to rectify the false impression created by their presentation of this matter as a factual news story. I am glad to be able to say that the Canadian Press, which carried the original story, has already issued a correction.

MR. HALES—METHOD OF DEALING WITH CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS, GUELPH, ONT.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege, and at the outset I must say that I am sorry to take the time of the house as I realize that this matter affects a local area. However, there is a principle involved which does affect every hon. member of the house.

On February 15 a small advertisement appeared in the Guelph *Mercury* stating that on and after March 1, 1965, all those applying for Canadian citizenship must apply in the city of Kitchener. The counties of Perth, Waterloo and Wellington were all involved in this centralization change. The advertisement was published without the signature of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The day following the appearance of the advertisement I contacted the deputy minister and registrar of citizenship who informed me of the department's desire to make this change without having consulted with the elected members of any of these areas.

On February 17 my hon. friend the hon. member for Brantford asked the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration if a study would be made of the whole question, and the minister advised it was under review. At that