

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will realize that he is simply continuing the argument which his questions raised during the question period and that that does not fall within the grounds of privilege.

MR. BRISCO—NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD HEARING IN VANCOUVER, B.C.

Mr. Speaker: I have a notice of privilege from the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco).

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege relates somewhat to the question of privilege raised by my colleague, then the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham, on November 3, 1978, when that member, now the Solicitor General (Mr. Lawrence), stated that he was misled in a letter from a minister of the Crown. I have not been misled by a minister of the Crown, but I have been misled by the secretary of the National Energy Board. I have been misled to the extent and degree that I am unable properly to represent the concerns of my constituents with regard to a hearing on an application by British Columbia Hydro for renewal, with modification, of its existing export licence. This hearing commenced this morning in Vancouver.

On the basis of correspondence from constituents and on the basis of editorial comment in the Nelson *Daily News* of July 27, 1979, I wrote to the National Energy Board and requested that hearings that it was contemplating here in Ottawa be held in Vancouver or in British Columbia where the majority of interveners were located. In a reply to me from the National Energy Board the following was indicated, and I quote only the two concluding sentences:

As a matter of interest I might mention that B.C. Hydro has applied to the Board and has been granted six months' extension on its current licence, thus, the hearing will not be held until some time next spring. I am placing your name on the Board's mailing list to receive a copy of the hearing order which the Board will issue concerning this application.

● (1510)

That was signed by the secretary of the National Energy Board.

In the question of privilege raised by my colleague, it was alleged at that time that he was intentionally misled. I cannot make that statement in all honesty and fairness with regard to the National Energy Board's secretary. However, I have acted as a member of Parliament with regard to these hearings on the basis of this letter from the National Energy Board. Therefore, at this moment I am placed in the position of having little, if any, time to prepare the type of intervention which would be expected of me by my constituents. Indeed, when I spoke to the secretary of the NEB this morning, he admitted the board's error, if it can be called that, and assured me that all pertinent information and application forms for intervention would be sent to my office immediately by messenger. I received them only five minutes ago.

If a member of Parliament from a riding not directly affected by possible NEB decisions in regard to B.C. Hydro's application were a victim of this error, I would not view the

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matter with the same degree of seriousness. However, of all the constituencies in British Columbia, Kootenay West and Kootenay East-Revelstoke are the ones that are most materially affected in both a positive and a very negative sense by the Columbia River Treaty and by B.C. Hydro, which has the authority given to it under the treaty to implement the conditions laid down in the treaty. Other official and quasi-official bodies in my constituency have, in the last 48 hours, raised their voice in protest over the fact that the hearing before the NEB commenced today in Vancouver at 9.30 a.m. without adequate notice having been given to them.

How can I conceivably represent the people most affected by the decision of the NEB when I have been so seriously misled by the board established by Parliament for the purpose of giving direction to Canada and to Canadians on energy related issues?

I seek your indulgence and advice on this matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Since the hon. member has indicated that it appears to be an error on the part of the board and as the board, of course, is not a government agency for which a minister has direct responsibility—I am not entirely sure of that but it is likely an independent agency for which a minister reports to Parliament—it seems to me likely that the hon. member has disqualified his problem as being a matter of privilege. However, it would seem to be that he has a grievance which is very important and for that reason I did not interrupt him in the course of his remarks, although it became clear early in his remarks that the likelihood of developing a question of privilege was not very great.

The hon. member has raised a point which is a matter of great concern to him, and I think to all hon. members, that when we seek information about matters which comes as part of our responsibility in representing constituents it is important that that information be accurate and that in the end the constituency or constituents not be penalized by the failure to have adequate representation through their elected representative.

It seems to me that the hon. member has raised the point publicly to the House at this time and he should pursue it probably with the minister who reports to Parliament for the NEB to see whether or not directly under the circumstances the minister is able to intervene to make such arrangements as would permit the hearings to be conducted in such a way as to permit adequate representation by the hon. member. I leave that to him. If that fails, he might want to raise the matter again.

[*Translation*]

MR. BUJOLD—OPEN HOUSE CANADA PROGRAM—ALLEGED LACK OF INFORMATION ON GRANTING OF CONTRACT TO CP AIR

Mr. Rémi Bujold (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege relates to the question I asked yesterday of the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Mac-