

Privilege

were some very specific questions and we answered them in a great deal of detail.

I want to add that when we compare that to the access to information request, there is a significant difference between the two.

Mr. Boudria: Yes. One is the truth.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Put that on the record.

Mr. Boudria: I am. One is the truth.

Mr. Cooper: Let me just quote from that request: "the itemized costs incurred by the department relating to the Prime Minister's trip to Los Angeles, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Costa Rica..". Already, Mr. Speaker, you can see a difference in the type of information sought. This one is much more detailed than the question put by the hon. member. It also went on to say that in addition to itemized travel expenses abroad related to this trip, please itemize other costs where possible, such as costs of advance preparation.

Neither myself, the departments nor the huge number of people involved in answering the hon. member's questions have in any way misled him or the House. I want to make the case once more that we have been down this garden path with this particular member before. He continues to ask questions that take a great deal of time to answer and a great deal of people's work and taxpayers' money. In fact, I am now working on another question for the hon. member that is already made up of over 1,300 pages of material.

The hon. member has the audacity to stand up in the House and complain because the information he gets is a little different from another request. What he has is not a question of privilege. The matter is totally out of order and it is consistent with his behaviour on other questions.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have submitted to you that there is here a *prima facie* case of privilege. The member opposite has made all kinds of disparaging remarks. Of course, he has not in any way claimed that there is no question of privilege. I believe what I have submitted to you is accurate. I am comparing the

information I received with the access to information registry.

The members across may make all kinds of accusations. That is their privilege. They may not like the questions I ask but, I am not asking the Speaker to rule as to whether or not my questions are likeable. That is an issue to be discussed at some other time. What we are discussing here today is whether or not members can be expected to obtain accurate and prompt information from the government, not information that I like or anyone else likes, but information in accordance with the rules and traditions of this House. That has not been provided in this case.

Finally, the member opposite says that the question was incomplete. I want to remind you, Sir, of my question. I asked: "What was the total cost of the trip?" Total cost includes everything, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite cannot say that my question was not specific enough. I asked for the total of the cost. I suggest that is quite specific. I do not want to debate that point at any great length.

The Speaker should be interested as to whether or not there is a case of privilege here and whether the rules either need to be qualified or the government held to account for the fact that it cannot provide information pursuant to the rules that we already have.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we have some kind of a dispute here. The hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell has indicated that in his view the answer was inaccurate. The parliamentary secretary has given an explanation as to why the answer pursuant to the Access to Information Act was different than the answer given to the hon. member.

The rules of this House are very clear. The information to be provided to the House must be accurate and must not mislead the House. There is a suggestion that that may have happened in this case.

Given the explanations tendered by both sides, and subject to Your Honour reviewing the remarks that both members have made, it seems to me that it would be an appropriate case to refer to the committee so the committee can investigate to see whether, in fact, the answers appear to be in accordance with the rules.