

Committee Report

● (1550)

It is clear that the decision made by Mr. Speaker Jerome on February 20, 1978, as reported at page 3294 of *Hansard* regarding the use of the word "deliberate" in terms of misleading the House, has no relevance whatsoever to the debate this afternoon.

The other example quoted by the hon. member for York-Peel reported at page 1856 of *Hansard* for December 6, 1978, again had no relationship whatsoever to the alleged question of privilege that is before you. That instance, which I remember well as I was in the House at the time, concerned testimony given by former RCMP Commissioner Higgitt and a subsequent letter by the then solicitor general which was made available to the House. It was deemed by Mr. Speaker Jerome that that information misled the House. In no way has that any bearing on the debate today, which I submit is just that—an attempt to debate a subject. What we have here is a statement of the facts by the hon. minister. We have a dispute of those facts by hon. members opposite and clearly the honourable intention in this House is that one takes a minister and an hon. member at his word. The minister has outlined his position very clearly, I think.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I am sure that I do not have to bring to your attention the fact that Standing Order 15(3) gives a minister of the Crown the option of making a statement. Specifically it states that a minister of the Crown may make a short statement. The option is clearly with the minister.

I would also draw Your Honour's attention to Citation 264 of *Beauchesne* which states as follows:

The option of a minister to make a statement either in the House or outside it may be the subject of comment, but is not the subject of a question of privilege.

Finally, I should like to point out that for the second day in a row we have wasted one hour on spurious or alleged questions of privilege. I wonder what the intent of the opposition is in pursuing this course of action day after day.

Mr. Stevens: The minister was not here before.

Madam Speaker: I will take this question under advisement and rule on it later.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Second report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs—Mr. Dubois.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

CANADA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-629, to amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, in very brief form this is a bill to amend the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act to increase the amount of the guarantee from \$20,000 to \$50,000 and would apply to the financial institutions which receive deposits.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 668, 1,900 and 2,028.

[Text]

SODEVCO

Question No. 668—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Was any business carried on by the government or any of its agencies prior to May 22, 1979, with a firm called SODEVCO and, if so (a) what is a complete list of all such business (b) what is the address of the firm (c) what was the amount and date on which all funds or contracts were paid and the reason for such funds in each case (d) what was the total amount of contracts or funds paid to the firm?

2. What are the names of all persons who have acted as officials with SODEVCO and in particular, what are the details and names of individuals who have negotiated or in any way furthered such government business?

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): In so far as the Canada Employment and Immigration Department is concerned:

1. (a) No. However, prior to May 22, 1979, two Canada Manpower Industrial Training Program contracts were negotiated. These two contracts were subsequently authorized on June 18, 1979.
- (b) 120 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Québec
J8X 2K8
- (c) The Canada Manpower Industrial Training Program contract No. 2430-9-021 was authorized in the amount of \$1,583.87. To date, \$854.34 has been paid for the training of one employee in a trained-skill shortage field.