

*Order Paper Questions*

of the large number of questions asked. Statistics can lie. Far more important than the percentage of questions that have been answered are the number of questions and the importance of the subject material which have been left unanswered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is restating the argument he made originally. That is not a new question of privilege.

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the point of order which was raised by the government House leader. While I hesitate to do so, I do it because I believe my integrity as a member of this House has been impugned.

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

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

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** I think it is worth pointing out, Mr. Speaker, that since I first sat in the House on January 4 I have only put two questions on the order paper but it took three and a half months for these guys to answer the questions. I could not get answers through the regular mail because these ministers refuse to answer mail.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I see nothing new in the point of order being raised by the hon. member. I wonder whether hon. members feel that we are achieving very much by a number of members rising one after another to make the same point. It seems to me that the point has been made and the hon. member is now repeating it. I wonder whether that achieves anything.

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, surely when the government House leader and his parliamentary secretary impugn the integrity of people in this House they should be required to withdraw their statements—

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

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

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** — and not attempt to abuse the rules of the House.

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

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Any allegation that it was the research office instead of myself that asked these questions to try to get information is completely wrong. In giving statistics with respect to the number and percentage of questions answered the minister and the parliamentary secretary were, of course, misleading the House, perhaps unintentionally, because they do not understand the situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Notices of motions for the production of papers. Order, please. The hon. member for Leeds rises on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Cossitt:** Mr. Speaker, I apologize for taking the time of the House but I feel this is a question of privilege and quite legitimate. A few moments ago the Parliamentary

[Mr. Hellyer.]

Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Reid) said in reference to certain questions I have on the order paper which have not been answered that it was traditional—those were his words, I believe—not to reply to such questions in regard to CMHC. I feel that is a reflection on the privilege and right of every member of the House to ask questions. Surely the right to ask questions and have them answered in this House is based on the right of the people of Canada to know. The people have a right to answers and information. I think it is a breach of privilege when we have to sit here and listen to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) offer a bunch of lame excuses covering up the inactivity of the government.

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

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Notices of motions for the production of papers.

## MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[*English*]

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, notice of motion for the production of papers No. 258 is acceptable to the government subject to the usual reservations concerning confidential documents and to the authorization of the government authorities concerned.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Under the conditions and reservations mentioned by the parliamentary secretary, is it the pleasure of the House that motion No. 258 be deemed to have been adopted?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*English*]

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT OF P.E.I. RESPECTING TRANSFER OF PROVINCE HOUSE

Motion No. 258—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and other documents between the Government of Canada and the Government of Prince Edward Island and/or other persons or agencies, with respect to the transfer of Province House in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to the Government of Canada, together with the land on which such building stands and any additional land or buildings related to that transfer.

Motion agreed to.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the remaining notices of motions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.