

Speaker's Ruling

not privilege. However I would ask you to review those past precedents, because in this particular case—and I would like to point out that my questions were asked long before the mine disaster—I was asking for specific information. I was following the rules this House sets forward to get specific information. On a number of occasions I have heard various parliamentary secretaries to the government House leader say: "These answers require extensive work; they require expensive work".

That is the purpose of these types of questions. From the correspondence and calls I received that are noted and forwarded, it is evident to me that the answer I received is a very inaccurate one.

I asked that question on behalf of a number of Canadians who had approached our offices on this issue. By giving them this information, which came from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, I was giving them false information. As a member of Parliament, I took the information that was given to me, which was false, and forwarded it to other Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, my appeal to you and my question of privilege is this: How do we get accurate information and how do we serve our constituents and other Canadians if the information we receive from government ministers and their parliamentary secretaries is false?

Mr. Speaker: I think it should be noted that no member is rising so at the moment I am going to consider the intervention of the hon. member. If by any chance anyone wishes to say anything, then they should indicate that to me.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): I would like to briefly respond to that.

I find this point of personal privilege quite difficult to understand. Frankly we have—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. I am faced with that dilemma often. I indicated to the House that I would look carefully at the intervention of the hon. member. I have invited the minister to respond if he wishes. If he wishes to take advisement on the matter and come back to the House when he is prepared, I will certainly hear him.

Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, if you would like to take it under advisement fine, but my answer during Question Period is the same answer I would give today. Within the

Government of Canada all sorts of departments are constantly spoken to when regional industrial projects are being promoted.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to say to the minister that one of the reasons I want to take it under advisement is that I was listening very carefully to the exchange earlier in Question Period. I will report back and let the hon. member know when it is appropriate to do so.

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PRIVILEGE

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I have a ruling which I am now prepared to share with the House on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Scarborough—Rouge River regarding the tabling of Order in Council PC 1992-2715, pursuant to Section 59(5) of the Customs Tariff; and the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre regarding the tabling of the government response to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade report.

Members will remember that when the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre raised the matter, which he did, I advised him that a similar matter was before me and I would try to deal with them both at the same time.

• (1510)

I would like to advise all hon. members that I am now ready to rule on the question of privilege raised on Wednesday, February 24 by the hon. member for Scarborough—Rouge River regarding the failure of the Minister of Finance to table an Order in Council pursuant to section 59(5) of the Customs Tariff.

Regrettably this issue is not new to this House, having been raised by the hon. member just over a year ago. I would like to thank the hon. member for bringing this matter to the attention of the House again and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for the response.

I will deal as well in this ruling with the question of privilege raised on March 29, 1993 by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre concerning the late tabling of a government response to a committee report from the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.