

The Budget—Mr. Pearson

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): It is the same question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member was asked to read my answer—

Mr. Carter: The hon. member does not have to do what you tell him.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): —and I have *Hansard* here in front of me.

Mr. Carter: Read it afterwards.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I ask him to turn to page 2348 of *Hansard* and read the first answer because the hon. member has not read it.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but the hon. member who has the floor has the right to make his own speech. I see no question of privilege in the point that has been raised by the minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

An hon. Member: Who is Speaker of the house?

Mr. Diefenbaker: If I understood the Leader of the Opposition aright, he mentioned the 75 million acres that had been taken up—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Pickersgill: The Prime Minister is now making a speech.

Mr. Speaker: I ask hon. members to be quiet so I can hear the question of privilege which the Prime Minister is trying to make.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman mentioned 75 million acres as having been taken up; and then went on to say that the answer in *Hansard* showed that only 4 per cent of the companies that took up that acreage—

Mr. Robichaud: He said 5 per cent.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —were Canadian companies. This statement is not borne out by the answer given in this house which refers to a total of some 2,900,000 or about 3 million acres so that the minister has, in effect, a question of privilege in that the Leader of the Opposition is not quoting what he said as reported in *Hansard*.

Mr. McIlraith: That is not a question of privilege, and you know it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope hon. members will kindly allow the Prime Minister to make his point.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I realize that the truth hurts some of these babblers. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition has either deliberately or unconsciously,

unknowingly or deliberately, misstated this answer. It refers to 3 million acres, not 75 million acres.

Mr. Speaker: This is an unnecessary tempest because what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has been reading, I take it, is a matter of record, and what the Prime Minister refers to is a matter of record, so it does not seem to me there is room for misunderstanding.

Mr. Harkness: There is misrepresentation.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I suggest the minister of northern affairs allow the hon. member to proceed with his speech. Before the time for the vote arrives I will give him an opportunity to correct any wrong impression which he feels has been made in what has been said.

Mr. Pearson: If I had intervened this afternoon when the Minister of Finance was speaking every time he made what we considered to be a misstatement or one that caused a wrong impression the Minister of Finance would not have had any time to speak at all. I would also draw to your attention that when we courteously asked the Minister of Finance for the opportunity to ask him a question, he would not accept our question.

Mr. Harkness: You are just continuing the misrepresentation.

Mr. Pearson: Now, these members of the government, who are so sensitive about statements on this side that they rise to questions of privilege which have nothing to do with privilege in any way and yet the Prime Minister take up 15 minutes of my time—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Speaker: I consider the matter closed, and I hope the Leader of Opposition will proceed.

Mr. Pearson: Yes; I will return to this statement of the Prime Minister that 75 million acres in northern Canada had been taken up for oil and mineral development. This shows how this government, under this Prime Minister, is protecting our sovereign rights, and yet when we ask for information in respect of a specific matter, dealing with some million acres which were leased, and we get specific information covering about three million acres, we find that 95 per cent of these leases were granted to United States corporations or Canadian subsidiaries of United States corporations. This is how this government is protecting our sovereign rights. Is it any wonder, therefore—perhaps the