Privilege-Mr. Broadbent

Mr. Pinard: Yes, Madam Speaker, and I thank the hon. member for his question. That is part of the main course about which I was talking to the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton.

In fact, we are working on drafting legislation at this stage in order to cope with this situation. I intend to meet with my colleagues opposite to discuss the kind of debate we could have on this legislation. I want to meet with them at the beginning of next week, either Monday or Tuesday. At this stage the information I have is that the legislation will not be ready for introduction before next Thursday or next Friday. That means that if we cannot come to some agreement to deal with that legislation within a very short length of time, that is, at the beginning of the following week—that is, June 29 and June 30—it is likely that we will have to sit in July. That is why earlier in my answers I had to leave the impression that it was perhaps not too realistic at this stage to think we could be in a position to adjourn on June 30. It is still technically possible, as hon, members can see, but if we are realistic I think we can see we will have to sit a few days in July.

I want to assure the hon. member that I will be talking to his House leader and, if he is interested in participating in the discussions because of his interest in this matter, I would be glad to have him around and to negotiate with him a reasonable length of time to debate the legislation about which I am talking.

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the President of the Privy Council if he is in a position to tell the House whether the government proposes to bring in the report stage of Bill C-48, the proposed oil and gas act, before the House adjourns until the fall. I understand that third reading will take place in the fall, but there was what I have called a sweetheart deal between the Conservatives and the minister on this matter which seems to have turned sour, and I would like to know whether the President of the Privy Council proposes to bring in the report stage of Bill C-48. Because, as the minister knows, the government is imposing closure on that bill in the committee on June 25.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any closure. I think I can say that after many months the committee has decided to limit debate at this stage on Bill C-48. As far as the report stage of that bill is concerned, I will take the representation of the hon. member into serious consideration.

• (1520)

PRIVILEGE

MR. BROADBENT—S.O. 43 MOTION OF MR. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH)

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In recent days concerning the important question of what is taking place in El Salvador members from all parties—I am thinking particularly of the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. McLean), the hon. member

for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) and the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Hudecki) as well as others—have revealed a distinguished, non-partisan approach, so to speak, to this question in the House.

In this light I was deeply disturbed to hear the motion moved under Standing Order 43 today by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) in which there was something which was not just misleading but blatantly false. When I explain the circumstances as to why that is the case, I hope the member will get to his feet and say that he was in error and withdraw the accusation contained in the motion under Standing Order 43.

This morning on the television program-

Madam Speaker: Order, if the member's question of privilege is related to the motion under Standing Order 43 that we dealt with in the House earlier, I am afraid I have to tell him that, had there been unanimous consent to the motion, I would have put it to the House and he would have been able to debate it. It was not debated but the House did deal with it. There was no unanimous consent to that motion and I am afraid that one must not come back on what the House has already dealt with. If that is the substance of the question of privilege of the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), I will not be able to hear it.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, I certainly respect your judgment but I would ask perhaps for some further consideration. I have consulted the oracle on the rules to my left and I am indeed told—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is two reasons why it is not allowable.

Mr. Broadbent: —that it is within the rules to properly raise—

Madam Speaker: Order. Is the hon, member trying to influence the Chair by citing this very competent oracle on procedure?

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, there is only one oracle in this House inferior to yourself on the rules, and that is the gentleman on my left.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Nonetheless, on a serious point, a charge has been made against me in the House by another member. The proceedings of the House—and this was done under the provisions of Standing Order 43, which I have some personal concerns about in terms of its propriety—do not enable me in that context to deal with an accusation which, I repeat, is not only misleading but is factually completely false.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Madam Speaker: I do have to call the hon. member to order. Charges, accusations, are made from one side or the other of this House. That is what happens in the normal course