

Privilege—Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi)

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. DIONNE (NORTHUMBERLAND-MIRAMICHI)—LANGUAGE USED BY MR. WADDELL IN REFERENCE TO POSTMASTER GENERAL

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, a question of privilege.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): What a waste of time.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, I will rise on a question of privilege concerning the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) in reference to the Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) when he referred to, and I quote, "the fascist tendencies of the minister". I suggest, Madam Speaker, that that is not parliamentary language. I suggest also that the hon. member should look to his own tendencies and the tendencies of his party with regard to the referendum in Quebec before he criticizes the actions of the Postmaster General, particularly when that party had a tendency to take no tendency with regard to the integrity of the nation and the referendum in Quebec.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, the hon. member from New Brunswick is bootlegging all kinds of issues into this debate that should not be bootlegged into it. He said that we did not care about the future of this country and did not express ourselves. I want to say to you, Madam Speaker, that we have expressed ourselves about the future of this country many times. We want Canada to remain as a federation. We want to have one country with all the ten provinces in that one country called Canada. I do not think it is fair that somebody should put a false statement on the record, as the hon. member for New Brunswick has.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I hope the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) will read the blues himself and perhaps see fit to withdraw that kind of remark made in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I just want to clarify one matter. Let me tell you that the words I used were words that every Anglophone newspaper and editorial in this country used with respect to the remarks of the minister in that debate. They were the words of all the newspaper editorials. They said the minister showed lots of promise as a young minister with experience and so on, but they were shocked by his remarks, and the reports said that they showed fascist tendencies.

That is not what I accused him of in this debate. I said that this is something different and that the kind of tone of those remarks, while it may be a political mistake on his part I think, to have raised in that debate, he was entitled to raise it in that debate. But he is not entitled to take the same kind of line with the opposition in terms of what we are trying to do in Standing Order 43s and our questioning. That is why this is an

important matter of privilege, and the minister should not be able to get away with it.

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, I am sorry that the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) made a hasty exit from the chamber while the member from the New Democratic Party was speaking. Maybe that denotes fright; I do not know. When he returns I think, for the benefit of the House, he ought to clarify what he meant by the words "tendency to take no tendency". That is what he said. What does it mean?

An hon. Member: He does not know.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I will examine this new point of order in light of the comments and see whether any hon. member has used unparliamentary language, and let the House know what my conclusions are later on.

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[Translation]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-6, an act to amend the Two-Price Wheat Act, to which the concurrence of the House is desired.

[English]

I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-2, an act to implement conventions between Canada and Spain, Canada and the Republic of Liberia, Canada and the Republic of Austria, Canada and Italy, Canada and the Republic of Korea, Canada and the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Canada and the Republic of Indonesia, and agreements between Canada and Malaysia, Canada and Jamaica and Canada and Barbados, and a convention between Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to income tax, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

First report of Standing Committee on Agriculture, in both official languages—Mr. Tessier (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead).

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