

Privilege

circumstance, it should never happen again and we can work together to try to restore the reputation of—

Mr. Speaker: The time has come to close off the debate. I have heard, and I have taken very great care in listening to the points that have been made. I am going to consider the matter very carefully and I will report back to the Chamber as soon as possible.

I have listened with, I think, some comfort to representations from some members regarding the respect which we need to have for this place and which other people ought to have for it. Those comments, quite frankly, this afternoon and also on other occasions have been helpful. The hon. member for Saint-Denis has invited the Chair, at an appropriate time, to make some comments along those lines, and I shall certainly reflect upon that.

However, I have a situation before me. I am now going to have to consider it very carefully. I think hon. members can take from this, though this is no indication of how I will ultimately decide, how sometimes extremely careful we have to be or we ought to be in this Chamber in what we say, what may be implied to us or implied by us. I will take this into account and I hope that I will be able to help hon. members.

There is, as far as I am concerned, no need to pursue the debate any further. It is probably appropriate to all go away and reflect a little bit on what has been said in the House and especially reflect upon some of the very helpful things that have been said by several of our colleagues.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, just a very brief point. I have listened carefully to what you have said and I would implore you, Sir, to put this consideration at the top of your priority list because I think it is totally unfair for my colleague to have this charge hanging over his head between now and the time that you are able to be seized of this matter and, of course, the whole caucus.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the concern of the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan and I assure the House that I will not delay unduly.

If there are other matters to be raised I, of course, will hear them. But, there has to be a point where these matters are concluded so far as argument and represen-

tation is concerned and I think that it is that time. The hon. member for Calgary West may have another point.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I raised a point of order last Friday and you indicated at that time that you would be seeking information from the Leader of the New Democratic Party as to when he might return to the Chamber. The subject matter of my complaint is charges levelled against me and my colleagues by their House leader. I have been living under that cloud now for a week with no apology, with no opportunity to air it fully and to have a response. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you have knowledge as to when he is returning because there is some difficulty for me in terms of arranging my schedule. It would be nice to be away tomorrow. I have some plans for tomorrow. If he does return tomorrow, can my question be held over until Monday? Is that acceptable to the Chair?

• (1550)

Mr. Speaker: On the question of privilege—

Mr. Robinson: A point of order.

Mr. Speaker: May I deal with this first? On the question that the hon. member for Calgary West raises, which was raised as a question of privilege, there were certain representations made by the hon. member for Calgary West in which I think his complaint was certainly aired in preliminaries at least. At that time the hon. member who is being complained of, the hon. member for Kamloops, was not in the House. The information I have is that he will not be returning until the end of this week. He is not here yet. The question of privilege was adjourned on the principle of fairness that we try to apply, that it not be proceeded with further without the hon. member being in the Chamber. The question of privilege is completely secure and I assure the hon. member for Calgary West that as soon as it can be arranged, we shall proceed with the matter.

Mr. Hawkes: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: There comes a point when the Speaker really has to ask hon. members to co-operate. We can go on with points of order all day long unless someone finally says: "Look, enough is enough". I see other hon. members wanting to rise. We have a very important debate in front of this House. A lot of hon. members, as they have indicated, would like to get on with it.