

*Privilege*

subject of debate, and not given to one member to make without the opportunity of other members to respond.

I would ask the hon. member to come to the point of his point of personal privilege. I think I know what it is. His reasons for wanting to make that point are of interest to all of us, but it is not appropriate for me to allow the hon. member to engage in a unilateral exposition of his own views, unless of course other members were allowed to join in. Then we would be in a debate which is completely outside the rules, and I would be much at fault for allowing that to happen. I would ask the hon. member to come to his point.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, you of all people are a person I respect as not only an equal among equals but as a Speaker that really has lent dignity to this Chamber. I will follow your admonition and therefore not say some of the things I wanted to say. Perhaps there will be other opportunities to say them. I was just trying to illustrate by example so that we could perhaps be educated by it, with respect and after being 25 years in this place, so that we would try to correct ourselves and/or perhaps members would not get into the dilemma.

I will come to my point of privilege. Quite frankly I have been placed in the seats of the independents. I guess I am the dean of the independents since the row seems to start here and goes to my left. I have been treated as an independent. I guess in many ways I am an independent, as my colleagues know, from time to time. I might as well face facts. If it is a rose, a rose is a rose or whatever else you call it. I want to be known officially because the records have had trouble with it and other people have had trouble with it, in this state of suspension and hibernation in which I place myself.

I want to be known, with misgivings but also perhaps with the joy of freedom, to be an independent Conservative and sit in this House as an independent Conservative. I am speaking out and taking the position because I fundamentally believe in it.

I cannot end without reflection on one item, which I know some members of the press will reflect on it, because they have already reflected on it, in terms of my roots. I know in people's minds—and especially the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia who served with him—they most likely are wondering in an understandable way: "What would his father have done?" Who

knows? Times are different, and he was a loyal party man.

I think there comes a time, if a member honestly believes that loyalty to leader is always fundamental, when there are some topics of some situations where loyalty to leader is transcended by loyalty to a party. I have left the government caucus. I have now officially declared that I am an independent Conservative. I have been a Conservative longer than three-quarters of my caucus and I intend to be.

I am standing here in the open forum of this the highest court of the land to have perhaps by example other Canadians, let alone Conservatives, speak out. I do honestly believe, unless there is a change in direction, that the party to which I belong is going to be in very serious straits. With a change in direction this could be corrected, but as far as today is concerned I want to be known as an independent Conservative and have me so registered in the records. I really do not know if you have to change my seat or not since I am already over here.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has risen on a personal point of privilege. I am going to close off any further debate on that and call for Tabling of Documents.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would just like a little clarification. In the back of the Wednesday edition of *Hansard* we have the alphabetical list of members of the House of Commons for the second session of the 34th Parliament.

There was a point of personal privilege, and I believe our precedents would indicate that members are listed by affiliation related to the Canada Elections Act or as independents with no other possibilities in terms of that listing. I make the point that I believe all Conservatives have an independent bent of mind and certainly inside our caucus on many occasions we have very spirited debates. However, in terms of the listing for official purposes in terms of the House of Commons, I think it would be appropriate if the member was listed as an independent and that the matter ended there.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have heard the hon. member for Calgary West and of course I have heard the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants. I will consider this. I think that it is a matter that has already been raised before the Chair. It is a matter which is being discussed between some other members in the House