

and development of support for federalism. We want to distinguish between facts and propaganda and we intend to prepare information which will be available to federal members of Parliament, and which they can use to encourage Quebecers to continue adhering to the federalist option.

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● (1220)

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. OLIVIER—ALLEGED ATTACK BY MEMBER FOR YORKTON-MELVILLE—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question of privilege was raised yesterday by the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Olivier) concerning a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 put by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom). The hon. member for Longueuil was supported in his submission at that time by the hon. member for Drummond (Mr. Pinard). I undertook to re-examine the language to determine whether or not my initial impression, which I expressed yesterday, was in fact accurate.

I have re-examined the language and I can confirm to the House that that is the case. In fact, the language which was complained of is not contained in the preamble but is contained in the actual motion. I am not now deciding whether or not the language for which the hon. member demanded an apology was in fact unparliamentary; that is not necessary. Because it was contained in the motion—which must first be accepted before it can be debated—it would have to be very flagrantly out of order for me to take procedural action. Also, because it is contained in the motion it is not a declaration or an accusation by the hon. member but simply a matter for debate.

I have examined the motion to see whether there is anything in it of procedural significance, and I can find no breaches of our precedents or practices, as I indicated yesterday.

[Translation]

MR. OUELLET—ALLEGED INACCURATE STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, during oral questions the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) implied that I had announced three times the construction of the Guy Favreau project and that, as the then minister of public works, I was responsible for the hole in the ground that now exists in downtown Montreal. In this I feel that the Prime Minister misled the House and, on a question of privilege, I would ask that at the first opportunity he make a correction. I would call your attention, sir, to the fact that I was appointed to the public works portfolio in 1978 and it was at that time that I announced the work resumption on the Guy Favreau project, which had been interrupted to avoid competing with the

Point of Order—Miss Bégin

construction schedule of the Olympic facilities. So I announced the construction of the project once, and only once. The situation is as follows: When the Progressive Conservative party came to power in May last, work was in progress. At that time the new government ordered a halt. If construction had gone on all foundation work on the project would now be almost completed and structural work would have started at this point. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the hole in the ground is to be blamed on Progressive Conservative inaction.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Again we are in the area, essentially, of disagreement with respect to the content of answers. It is very difficult for the Chair to take a strict line on such a matter because it is very hard for me to determine the exact nature of the intervention until I have heard the proponents. In the future I would invite the co-operation of hon. members in being careful to determine whether or not they are simply in an area of disagreement, or really in the area of an inaccuracy which constitutes privilege, before raising a matter of this nature.

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[Translation]

POINT OF ORDER

MISS BÉGIN—INQUIRY WHY LAZAR REPORT NOT YET TABLED

Hon. Monique Bégin (Saint-Léonard-Anjou): Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I rise today for the fourth day in a row concerning a motion introduced under Standing Order 43 and agreed to unanimously by this House on October 24 last; tomorrow is December 1 and we insist that this government table forthwith the Lazar report on pensions. We have had stupid and ridiculous answers from the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Baker) and from the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Crombie) who just does not seem to remember where the report could be. Does he want my copy? I should like to know whether the new government, with all its grandiloquent pronouncements about due respect for parliamentary procedures, is now breaking the rules of the House, or else on what exact date it plans to table the report.

[English]

Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I think the undertaking I gave was that there would be an inquiry made. The inquiry has been made and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Schellenberger) may be able to enlighten the House.

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the report, it is in three sections and the English version is ready. The French version is being made ready. The printing presses are tied up with the budget which has priority.