

*Point of Order**[English]*

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Maurice has raised a very timely question.

As hon. members know, for several years there has been a serious problem of band governance within the Mohawk community at Kanasatake, where there has been instability and internal disagreement ever since the change in band custom election was introduced in 1969.

I am examining the judgment of Mr. Justice Rouleau of the Quebec Federal Court. I am inclined to favour the holding of a plebiscite very shortly on this question, to be conducted by an independent, impartial agency.

I will have a decision and more details early next week.

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*[Translation]***PRIVILEGE****OFFICE OF THE MEMBERS FOR RICHELIEU—SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

Mr. Speaker: I would like to make a brief clarification further to the statement by the hon. member for Richelieu in the House yesterday and his question of privilege raised on Monday this week.

I first wish to inform the House of the successful meeting I had today with the hon. member and with some officials who participated in moving his office. At that meeting, the hon. member said he was completely convinced that at no time were his rights and privileges as a member violated. It was recognized that such situations are exceptional and unique and it was regrettable if it caused him some concern.

Once again, I wish to thank the hon. member for his confidence and co-operation in this affair. The hon. member for Richelieu has the floor.

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, in turn, I would like to thank you for having met with me in your chamber and for stating publicly that I had found myself in an unfortunate situation. I also wish to reassure the hon. members and my constituents about the confidentiality of the files that were moved from my office. I have received assurances from your legal adviser, who

monitored the move, that it was done under police surveillance and that none of my files were tampered with. I have decided, with your permission, to stay in the office you have assigned me—or rather imposed upon me—because, for the same reasons that led me to object to having my office moved in the first place or to be asked to move, I think it would not be right to spend another \$10,000 in this time of restraint to move me back to my old office. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your co-operation in this matter and for kindly accepting to see me so promptly.

In closing, however, I must once again denounce the decision of the Progressive Conservative Party Whip to give in to the whim of some 30 conservative members by moving their office at a cost of about a quarter-of-a-million dollar. The Canadian people will make them pay for that at the next election. Thank you.

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*[English]***POINT OF ORDER****REPORT BY LABOUR CANADA**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. In the House today, reference was made to a report by Labour Canada. I want to advise the House that that report is in the process of being delivered to the chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade, and also to the members for Etobicoke North and Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, who are the respective critics for their parties.

*[Translation]***OFFICE OF THE MEMBER FOR RICHELIEU**

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to the member for Richelieu. He has just quoted some figures to which I strongly object. It does not cost \$10,000 to move his three machines and a few files. I was among those moved and I know it did cost \$150. I would not want the people to think that we spent \$10,000. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I would not want them to think that we just moved for the fun of it. I moved out of necessity and to help this House.