

*Points of Order**[English]*

Accordingly the prohibition against personal attacks in our Chamber is fundamental to maintaining order in this House. That is why my predecessors and I have so frequently in the past interrupted when personal attack seemed imminent.

However, while the Chair is granted many powers, it is not omniscient and cannot predict what course debate or questioning or interventions will take. Accordingly, in the final analysis the Chair must depend on the responsible attitude of each hon. member.

[Translation]

Statements are made here to attract attention: the attention of the House, the attention of one's constituents, the attention of the media and the public at large. It is simply disingenuous to pretend that members do not realize the potential impact of their words on the audience they reach.

[English]

The Chair can devise no strategy, however aggressive or interventionist, and can imagine no codification, however comprehensive or strict, that will as successfully protect the Canadian parliamentary traditions that we cherish as will each member's sense of justice and fair play. Especially at this time of crisis of confidence in our parliamentary institutions, our constituents deserve and will tolerate no less.

• (1510)

I should tell the hon. member I already have two points of order. I will get to the hon. member as soon as I can.

I think I will hear the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and will decide whether it is privilege or order. I will hear the hon. member.

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POINTS OF ORDER**COMMENT DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am rising on an incident that occurred during Question Period, which I took to be very serious.

During the course of my asking a question on child poverty, the Prime Minister responded with very unparliamentary language. It was language that I would refuse to repeat to the House.

The Prime Minister was given notice during Question Period that this point of order was going to be raised. It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister could not have stayed and listened to your remarks on the last point of order.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: I am asking for the assistance of all hon. members.

Hon. members have constantly breached the rules of this House this afternoon. It is impossible for the Chair to hear it all. I have asked the House to steady down. I am asking each hon. member to do so.

The hon. member will continue, and there is no need for editorializing today.

Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask that the Prime Minister withdraw his unparliamentary remarks as heard by this side during Question Period.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of what remarks the hon. member is talking about.

When we see the "blues", I am aware of—

An hon. member: It has nothing to do with the "blues".

Mr. Andre: Hon. members opposite are not allowing me to make my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): You heard it too.

Mr. Speaker: An hon. member just said that this point has nothing to do with the "blues".

I probably will have to look at the "blues" before I can respond to the point the hon. member is making. In the meantime, the hon. member has put forward his question of privilege. It is not at all difficult to find what the exchange was.

The hon. government House leader is answering in response in the absence of the Prime Minister. I ask hon. members to hear the government House leader.