

Mr. Speaker: The Chair ought not to let the occasion go by to indicate what a great example it can be for us all in the future when times become a little more tense. The guidelines that affect the Chair in regulating whether or not expressions are unparliamentary are limited. In this instance the House, the minister and the member, while not caught by the letter of the law, have observed the spirit of it; that is, that it is up to us to guide ourselves in respect to decorum and dignity. This kind of action certainly makes a major contribution to that.

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STATISTICS CANADA

STATEMENT ON REPORTED ERROR IN CALCULATION OF EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the "Moody" member—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: —the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) asked a question on Wednesday. In this connection I refer to *Hansard* at page 1544. He alleged in his question that there was a \$60 million error in the Statistics Canada estimate of labour income in the province of British Columbia which had affected the calculation of equalization payments to the provinces.

The situation there is that there was a \$30 million error by Statistics Canada in their preliminary data for total salaries and wages for the province of British Columbia in 1978. We have rerun the formula for 1978-1979 for tax equalization purposes and the result is an increase in equalization spread out over seven provinces of \$60,000. The error was a very small one because total salaries and wages in British Columbia were in excess of \$14 billion. For the tax equalization program an amount of \$60,000 is a very small correction. It is .002 per cent of the program. The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody does not need to worry about it. It was a very small error in the preliminary data.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. FLIS—PROCEEDINGS IN STANDING COMMITTEE ON BROADCASTING, FILMS AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ARTS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had my rights denied in the line of carrying out my duty as a member of Parliament. I want to bring to your attention the following facts.

Yesterday, I moved a motion according to Standing Order 65(10) in the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. The committee had a quorum as required by Standing Order 65(6). I am a member of this committee which, by the provisions of Standing Order 65(9), allows me to vote and move motions. The chairman of this

Point of Order—Mr. Flis

committee did not rule the motion out of order, but seeing that Liberals and NDP members outnumbered Progressive Conservative members he refused to put the motion to a vote.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member, I think, will realize if he examines that matter further—and I will give him an opportunity to consider it—that if he is asking the Chair to rule on proceedings that have taken place in committee, I would ask him to reconsider his position. Committees in every case must be the masters of their own procedure.

If the hon. member re-examines his point to indicate that he has a question of privilege which he feels goes beyond that limit, I would be pleased to hear it. But he will have to persuade me that the matter ought not to be within the jurisdiction of the committee, or cannot be handled within the jurisdiction of the committee. This House does not sit in appeal on procedural matters in the committee no matter how severe they may be. If the member has a grievance in the committee, he has to resolve it in the committee. If it needs the attention of this House, then it would have to be part of the committee report, which the hon. member would be able to bring to the attention of this House if and when the committee reports; or he may want to cause the committee to report on that matter in order to have the House deliberate on it. But in the absence of some direct communication from the committee to this House, the Chair has traditionally refrained from involving itself in any way in procedural questions that have been decided in the committee.

● (1210)

MR. JARVIS (WILLOWDALE)—ATTENDANCE IN HOUSE DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Bob Jarvis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to advise the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Deniger) that I am the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I was in the House when he put his question.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL—ANNUAL GREY CUP COMPETITION

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It deals with a very evident media bias this morning in favour of television and the fact that without this intervention the printed media would not record the fact that the Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Paproski) was sporting signs of support for both sides in our annual major Canadian competition. I wonder if that is another indication of government support for the inevitable this weekend—the victory of the Montreal Alouettes in the annual Grey Cup competition.