

## PRIVILEGE

MEMBER FOR MARKHAM—WHITCHURCH—STOUFFVILLE

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the member for Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville rose on a question of privilege and made submissions with regard to certain allegations that have been made.

He indicated when he rose on his question of privilege that he wished to clarify an issue, and I am quoting from *Hansard* at page 1387: "that has become a subject of debate not only in this Chamber but also across the nation".

The member stated: "This has impeded my ability to function effectively and efficiently as the member of Parliament for the riding of Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville". Later on in his submission he stated: "I invite my colleagues in the House to examine my academic credentials and weigh the accusations in a rational and judicious manner".

Mr. Speaker, I confirm that you and I had a discussion earlier this day with regard to this particular matter. I understand you are presently considering the question of privilege raised by the hon. member.

I indicated to you that I wished to make submissions on this question of privilege. Therefore I wish to ask you to defer your decision on this matter pending an opportunity for me and other members, if they so wish and desire, to make submissions as to why this particular unfortunate matter has affected the privileges of each of us individually and the House as a whole.

• (1505)

As you know, Mr. Speaker, you will be called upon when a matter of privilege is raised to simply determine whether it is a matter of privilege and whether to allow a motion to go forward recommending a particular course of action.

I wish to give notice of my intention to move a motion. If you so decide there is a breach of privilege, I wish to move a motion that the matters affecting the hon. member for Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville be referred to the elections and privileges standing committee. The committee would then have the authority to investigate the allegations against the hon. member. The committee would have the authority to hear and I would submit—

**The Speaker:** Order. Colleagues, I have not yet made a decision as to whether our hon. colleague does indeed have a *prima facie* case of privilege.

I will probably rule tomorrow but if I deem it necessary it may take some extra time. I want to make sure I consider all aspects of this submission which have been put forward. When I have decided, I will come back to the House and give my ruling at that time.

## Routine Proceedings

Following the ruling we will then proceed in an orderly fashion as to whether or not the House indeed wants to consider anything further in the matter of privilege.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Mr. Speaker, I would like the opportunity as a member of the House to make submissions in advance of your ruling.

I believe that members of Parliament have been affected by this matter. We have certainly received telephone calls and letters. I simply wish and I would like you to confirm that I will have the opportunity to make submissions to you in advance of your decision.

**The Speaker:** I take the request under advisement. I will make a decision on this request as well as on the question of privilege and will come back to the House at the earliest possible time.

**Mr. Hermanson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am a new member. Would the Speaker please clarify for the House whether this would be a question of privilege? I thought a question of privilege was regarding a personal matter. This does not seem to follow that qualification according to my understanding of the standing orders.

**The Speaker:** The Chair will indeed make a ruling on the question of privilege which is before the House at this time. The Chair will also consider the request put forward by the member for York South—Weston.

When I have made that decision on behalf of the House I will come back and report to the House at the earliest possible time.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the government believes that a healthy economy can and must flow from a healthy environment.

We owe it to our children to preserve and enhance the extraordinary environment with which we have been blessed. In doing so we can and must set the foundation for a whole new era of economic growth. We owe it to our children to explore the competitive advantage which a commitment to the environment will bring.

All of us have to change our behaviour in big and small ways beginning here in government. Individual Canadians have already been doing that in their own lives.