

Privilege—Mr. Andre

There really is not very much more that I wish to say. I was merely trying to set the context in which the question was asked.

To summarize, I am not accusing the Minister of any conflict of interest. I want to know what the Minister's involvement in the process was—

Mr. Shields: Just by innuendo.

● (1520)

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, my submission is that it is a perfectly proper question. The Minister answered the question, and his viewpoint was that he would continue. I thought the answer was that he would continue to sit on committees and deal with this matter. My feeling and that of my Party is that he should not, if he is a fund raiser who is involved intimately with the company in such a direct and open way as this. I think it could cause the appearance of problems, and I put that to the Minister. He may disagree, and he is entitled to disagree. I happen to think that most of the Canadian public might think the way I do.

Mr. Andre: Scum bag.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is now yelling "scum bag". I do not think that—

Mr. Andre: I retract that comment.

Mr. Waddell: Thank you. The Minister has kindly withdrawn that comment.

We may have different views. It may be a tough question. However, I have not accused the Minister of any conflict. I have raised the matter. I have an answer. I disagree with the answer. I will pursue it further. It is a tough question, but it is not a question of privilege.

Mr. Shields: It is sickening innuendo.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) could further assist the Speaker in considering this matter which, as I indicated a few days ago on a somewhat similar case, I take seriously.

I have read the letter from which the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway quoted in his question. I would just like to be sure that I fully understand the Hon. Member's position. Is there anything in the letter itself, in the substance of the letter, which causes the Hon. Member any difficulty, or is it just the question that Mr. Moore who is in the oil industry is also a member of the constituency organization and a fund raiser for the Hon. Minister? In other words, is the letter itself in any way a source of concern for the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway, or is it the fact that a fund-raising effort is being made?

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in the letter which concerns me. As the Minister said, a Canadian is entitled to exercise his or her political rights. What I am

concerned about, what I raised in the question, was the fact that the fund raiser is a Vice-President of Amoco Canada, a senior executive, at a time when the Government may be called upon to make a huge decision about this corporate takeover, with competing Canadian companies, including a government company. That is what I am concerned about. I say that it could cause the appearance of difficulty for the Minister, and that is why I put the question to him.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same question of privilege. While I agree with the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), though I do not think it is a question of privilege, I think it is an important point. The same information was made available to me. I spoke with the party about this. I asked a few questions on the basis of the information. It seems that this party, the Vice-President of Amoco who is involved in the constituency association of the Hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre), has been in this capacity for at least two years.

There was no proof that these letters were sent out using the frank. There was no indication which this person could give me that any undue influence was being applied or that anything other than the letter was being used. I think it is important to relate this information to the House.

While it is important that all Members be perceived as being above any kind of unscrupulous, subversive, or clandestine activity, we must draw a line. I agree with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that members of oil companies are entitled to be members of his organization.

The facts in this case speak for themselves. I, on behalf of the Liberal Party, feel that everything is quite in order.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister has made his case very well. As everybody knows, he is no stranger to the House and can hardly be expected to need my assistance.

However, I wish to draw to the attention of the House Your Honour's words on a previous occasion, as reported at page 5127 of *Hansard* for April 14, 1987, as follows:

However, I think the point the Hon. Minister is making, as a result of which his privileges have been breached, is that the effect of the innuendo carried by the questions was to slander him. The innuendo was an accusation or an assertion that the Hon. Minister was in breach of the guidelines.

Nobody in any Party is afraid of tough questions, whether they are placed in the House or at committee. One does not get into this business if one is afraid of tough questions. However, we are afraid of the phrasing of questions which slander within the walls of the House not only the Minister but innocent people out there.

When my hon. colleague in the Liberal Party rose, I was not at all surprised to hear him say what he said. I hold him in