

Privilege—Mr. Mazankowski

mine, Prime Minister or otherwise, that he or she was opposed to Canadians in one part of my country. When I am confronted with politics of this kind, it moves me considerably.

I was faced with that yesterday, leading up to my comment. A Minister of the Crown said, in reply to a question from one of my colleagues, the Hon. Member for—

An Hon. Member: Yorkton—Melville.

Mr. Broadbent:—Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom)—

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Saskatchewan, it is hard to remember.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Member is at it again. The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville asked a question of a Minister and he got as part of the reply: "What does he have against Alberta?" That is what one Minister said to my colleague.

In reply to a question to the Prime Minister that gave rise to my comment, which has been raised as a question of privilege, the Prime Minister of Canada said:

I know that my hon. friends in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties are opposed to the interests of western Canada.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Are you withdrawing, Ed?

Mr. Broadbent: I found that disturbing at that time and I still do. Although I expect the Prime Minister to tear my arguments to shreds if he can so do—and he ought to do that—I find very offensive the suggestion that I am opposed to the interests of any part of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The matter which has been raised by the Deputy Prime Minister is a serious one and it gives the Chair concern.

I would ask Hon. Members to let the Chair handle the discussion. The Hon. Member for Oshawa has the floor, and he is entitled to be heard.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I was saying that I expect rigorous debate, but I would never hurl the accusation at my political opponents that they are opposed to the interests of any part of my country, and I expect the same of them.

I expect them to disagree with my arguments, if they want to, and to challenge alleged claims of fact, if they want to, but I expect them never to question my commitment to the well-being of Canadians in any part of my land.

When that was raised—and it has been raised a number of times in reply to questions—when the Prime Minister said, "I know that my hon. friends in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties are opposed to the interests of western Canada", I replied: "That's a lie".

I happen to believe that it is totally untrue. I say that with the total commitment of my being about that assertion about me, and I say that about the other opposition Party. To suggest

that it is against the interests of one part of our country is unworthy of serious debate.

In my view that is a serious parliamentary breach, but I also respect the rules of the House and, therefore, I withdraw unequivocally the terminology I used to describe what I think is very unacceptable political behaviour in my country.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Finally.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party, the Hon. Member for Oshawa, for responding in the way he did.

Mr. Riis: The nine-month Prime Minister, he is such a sleazebag.

Mr. Speaker: I would think that as a consequence of this exchange all Hon. Members will strive mightily—

Mr. Mazankowski: He called you a sleazebag, Joe.

An Hon. Member: No, he didn't.

Mr. Mazankowski: I heard him.

Mr. Shields: So did I.

Mr. Speaker:—not to put the Chair in a difficult position.

There are several issues involved here—and I will recognize the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) in a moment—but one of them is a matter which arises out of an exchange in Question Period. As the Hon. Member for Oshawa pointed out, there can be great divisions of opinion on what is good on the part of the policies of one Party for one part of the country or another. That is one debate. However, what I must deal with is the procedural issue. Hon. Members know that some things are just not parliamentary.

The Hon. Member for Oshawa has explained his own feelings in the matter but has supported the Chair completely, for which I thank him. However, that does not end the matter because the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister has laid his complaint also in respect of words used by the Hon. Member for Skeena. Although there may be a great temptation for a lot of Members to get into this debate, I am going to try to contain it. I will hear the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton).

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I think the remarks which were made yesterday by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) need to be restated. The Prime Minister stated, and I quote:

—is the NDP so desperately concerned with raising matters that damage western Canada?

In the next statement the Prime Minister of Canada said:

I know that my hon. friends in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties are opposed to the interests of western Canada.

My father's family came to this country 300 years ago, my mother's family came here 200 years ago, and I am a third