

I say once more that if the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) had the right to try to undermine this institution for an hour and a half, the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) has the right to try to plead the case of this institution and to bring some dignity to this debate. That is all I said.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. It may well be that I misunderstood the government House leader; I will accept that. I certainly did not misunderstand the interjection of the hon. member from Saint-Hyacinthe or from others who shouted from their seats, but it may well be that I misunderstood the words of the government House leader.

I am certainly prepared to accept that there was a misunderstanding, if the government House leader will stand in his place and admit that there was no opposition by members of the Progressive Conservative Party to his use of either of the official languages he wants to use. If he will do that, I will certainly be prepared to admit that I may have misinterpreted what he said.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, perhaps I could continue. I was almost three minutes into my question of privilege before the Conservatives thought they ought to interrupt. We listened to them for more than an hour and a half; I hope we will get a little further this time.

Mr. Cossitt: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cossitt: Madam Speaker, a few moments ago—and it was quite audible to members at this end of the chamber—the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) referred to the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) as a simple hypocrite.

An hon. Member: What is wrong with that?

Mr. Cossitt: If one consults Beauchesne, the word “hypocrite” is unparliamentary.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cossitt: It also indicates that the right to intervene—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Broadbent: If an unparliamentary word is used against any member, I have the right to rise—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Cossitt: I am exercising my right; I intend to do so.

Privilege—Mr. Broadbent

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows the occurrence must have taken place in debate and it must have occurred in a manner that the Chair was aware of the expression used. It is not a valid point of order.

Mr. Cossitt: Madam Speaker, it indicates that the following words are unparliamentary—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please resume his seat. The hon. member is right when he says there is a list of unparliamentary words, and I will look at the list. But, in order for the Chair to declare those words unparliamentary, they must have occurred during the course of a debate and I must have heard them. Therefore, it is not a valid point of order.

Mr. Cossitt: Would Madam Speaker undertake to look at the blues to see if it was said?

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cossitt: Madam Speaker, I rise on a further point of order.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member still arguing his point of order?

Mr. Cossitt: I am asking for clarification from the Chair. Would Madam Speaker be prepared to consult *Hansard* to see whether those words were picked up? If they were, Madam Speaker would have to hear my point of order. Is Madam Speaker prepared to do that?

Madam Speaker: Yes, I am prepared to do that.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, the continuing interjections of the Conservative member is a vivid demonstration of the precise point I am attempting to make.

So far I have said that in my judgment—and I have checked with some people—we have had a long debate on this constitutional matter. It has involved many speeches. In terms of witnesses, some 100 groups or individuals appeared before the committee. There have been a thousand written submissions. Almost 200 Members of Parliament have spoken. In the past six weeks, including the current one, there has been only one amendment before the House of Commons by the Conservative Party.

● (1510)

This is the leader of the party which in the past—and I used to believe it—talked, as he did in the 1979 election campaign, about respecting the dignity of Parliament and about trying to improve our parliamentary democracy. Madam Speaker, that is a party which has witnessed a debate that has gone on for a long time, involving not only members of the House but men and women across this country; a party which says to the women of Canada that it wants to move an amendment improving legal rights; and which says to our native people it wants to move an amendment improving the entrenchment of aboriginal and treaty rights. This is a party which says all that,