

comment was not recorded in *Hansard*. There were more than a dozen people drowning out my voice and drowning out my attempt to be recognized by the Chair, which created the problem in the first instance. I think if the Hon. Member had not been so reckless himself in participating in the manner in which he did, he would not be faced with this embarrassment for himself today.

Madam Speaker: The only point that is of interest in this particular exchange, and I thought the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail) was rising for that purpose, is that I did not hear the words. I did not hear any words that were unparliamentary. They are not recorded in *Hansard*. Therefore, I have to rely on the word of Hon. Members. Hon. Members on this side of the House say they heard unparliamentary language. The only way I can rule on the matter is if the Hon. Member for Restigouche will confirm that he used unparliamentary language. Unless he does, there is no way that I can rule that what was said was unparliamentary. I have to take the word of all Hon. Members. If the Hon. Member for Restigouche feels he said nothing that was unparliamentary, I am afraid the point of order cannot be taken and I cannot rule on it.

Mr. Beatty: Show some honour.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Provencher.

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, with all respect, I think that creates a particular dilemma for all Members of the House in this sense, that literally anything can be said across the floor.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Literally anything cannot be said across the floor. If I hear unparliamentary language, I deal with it. If I do not hear unparliamentary words, then I consult *Hansard*. If unparliamentary words are not recorded in *Hansard*, we also have the tapes and we can listen to them. Since we have none of those records and if the Hon. Member for Restigouche does not confirm that he used unparliamentary language, I have to insist that I cannot rule on the matter.

Mr. Harquail: Madam Speaker, in the interests of the great respect I have for this institution and for the Chair, and through you to the Hon. Member, whether he knows it or not the respect that I have for him, I want to say that if he has read something into this or heard something which is not recorded, it is difficult for me to respond to it. But I would want to take the opportunity to say that if the Hon. Member has been offended, I will withdraw whatever was said in the heat of debate that offended him. But he in fact knows full well that he contributed to the particular instance to which he is referring, if there was such an instance.

Madam Speaker: The matter is obviously closed.

Privilege—Mr. McKnight

PRIVILEGE

MR. MCKNIGHT—USE OF FRANKING PRIVILEGE

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, I gave you notice of my question of privilege earlier today. I have raised this issue in the House regarding the use of franks and House of Commons stationery by Members outside of what would normally be considered their duties as Members of Parliament. I have read a ruling that you made on one occasion and I will give you the page number and the day so that you will have it for reference.

• (1510)

Madam Speaker: Order. Please do not read to me my ruling. The Hon. Member can read it later on. Right now, he should tell me what his question of privilege is.

Mr. McKnight: Madam Speaker, as I indicated in my letter to you, the question of privilege I am raising today concerns the use of privileges which Members of Parliament have because of our positions that could cause disrespect or be used in an unmeaningful way.

In order to enable you to make a ruling on this matter, I have taken the opportunity to inform the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish) that I would be raising it as well as to provide that Member with a copy of the correspondence which I hope to discuss. My reason for doing this is that I have correspondence from the Saskatchewan Land Bank Tenants Association, Box 89, Sonningdale, Saskatchewan which is signed by Chris Mewhort, who is the Secretary of the Saskatchewan Land Bank Tenants Association. It is a letter sent to J. F. Watts, Box 1105, Weyburn, Saskatchewan. In these pieces of correspondence in the envelope which bears the frank of the Hon. Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake, I do not find anything that refers to the Hon. Member by name, constituency or anything else which indicates that the Hon. Member is aware that his frank is being used.

If our franks are being used without our knowledge—

Madam Speaker: Order. I can see that the Hon. Member is complaining about the use that another Hon. Member has made of his frank.

Mr. McKnight: No.

Madam Speaker: It is not that? It is only proof, then, that the Hon. Member has not been quite clear as to what his question of privilege is. I want to know how whatever he is complaining about or what he is intending to expose affects his personal privilege.

Mr. McKnight: Madam Speaker, as I said in my initial remarks, with respect to the use of the privileges which are allowed Members of Parliament because of our positions, there is a great concern and need to protect the rights that are given to us by the House and, in fact, the people of Canada.

An Hon. Member: What is your point of privilege?