

Routine Proceedings

just one, not just two, but many members including cabinet ministers to drown out the member for Windsor—St. Clair when he attempted to put his supplementary question.

I believe, Sir, that that was impugning the motive of the member for Windsor—St. Clair. I think it is a matter that you should reflect upon, review the tapes and review *Hansard* to see in fact if the privilege of the member has been infringed upon.

Second, at the time when my leader rose, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said: "That was no accident" with regard to the matter of the demonstration and its so-called relationship to this caucus.

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, if you could review the "blues" and, if you find that those words were recorded, take the appropriate steps to ensure that the minister withdraws those remarks.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): First of all, Your Honour, I would like to express my appreciation for your gracious remarks with respect to a statement that you made that could have been misunderstood. I thank you very much for that, Sir.

To the hon. member for Athabasca, let me express my appreciation for his apology for a remark that I did not myself attach a great deal of significance to.

I do not think that there could have been any serious suspicion or inclination among the vast majority of members of this House that I would have had anything to do with behaviour in the gallery, such as was unfortunate to have taken place, as we all agree.

But I have to say this: when people have watched this House on their television sets it will not be the ill behaviour of those students that they will remember; it will be the ill behaviour of the members on the other side.

We have a considerable problem in maintaining the trust and respect of the people of Canada. There is little doubt that our status has decreased still more when we see near bedlam on the government side that is inappropriate to this House. I hope that I never have to experience it again.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, to the point of order that has been raised,

the only question that ought to be before the House is whether or not the House, in the event of any incidents or demonstration here, would ever want to make the mistake of presuming the involvement on the basis of absolutely no evidence whatsoever of any member, whether he or she is an independent member, a member of the New Democratic Party, a member of the Liberal Party, or a member of the Conservative Party.

That is the only issue. Does this House make an automatic presumption of involvement of a member in a demonstration from the gallery? All members reject that kind of behaviour.

I think the Speaker today has served this House well with the remarks you have made, Mr. Speaker. I think most other matters subsequent to your comments are matters of debate and partisanship. We ought to quit while we are ahead.

Mr. Speaker: First of all I want to thank the hon. member for his comment and I want to thank other hon. members for the support on both sides of the House for that.

I will consider carefully what has been said. If it is appropriate to come back to the House and report, I shall do so.

I think it is clear to all of us, not just to members here but to the public that is watching and listening, that we have an obligation to maintain as much dignity and civility in this place as is possible, given the fact that it is not a tea party and it is a vigorous place of debate.

I think that that is the general mood of all hon. members and I think I am accurately expressing that mood.

We will move on to Routine Proceedings.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

51ST REPORT OF STRIKING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the 51st report of the Striking Committee.