

[English]

### POINT OF ORDER

#### ALLEGATION RESPECTING PRESS RELEASE LINKING NAMES OF OUTSTANDING PERSONS TO BILL C-22

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a brief point of order. Yesterday during Question Period the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) raised two questions, as reported on page 1641 of *Hansard*, in which the suggestion was made that the Government was linking the names of Terry Fox, Steve Fonyo, and Rick Hansen to the Government's Bill changing the Patent Act.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) undertook to review the matter. As reported on the same page of *Hansard*, he said:—because there would be no intention of associating anyone with a proposal or a piece of legislation without his or her authorization—

We have now had an opportunity to review the news release in question. I will not read the entire news release. Of course it is available. It indicated that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) "went on to say that Canadians obviously believe in the need for medical research. Terry Fox, Steve Fonyo, and Rick Hansen had raised millions of dollars, he noted".

Obviously in the news release the Minister was referring specifically to the question of medical research. There is no effort in the news release to link these individuals to the Bill. I do not believe my hon. colleague wished to leave a false impression with the House. I am simply correcting the record, as the Right Hon. Prime Minister indicated he would do.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, I am very disappointed that I must rise in response to the reaction of my hon. colleague. In the press release to which the Hon. Member referred, arising from comments yesterday during Question Period, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Fonyo, and Mr. Fox were in a sense implicated by association. The press release dealt with the Government's plan to change the Patent Act, which would result in higher drug prices. It was a very partisan press release. It referred to opposition Parties in a very negative way and implied all sorts of negative things. Sprinkled throughout the press release were the names of these three great Canadians.

In the next press release which will presumably come out today, I submit that we will hear the names of Dr. Suzuki, Dr. Polanyi, Karen Kain, Peter Gzowski, Wayne Gretzky, or whoever else.

By implication these people were associated with the theme and thesis of the press release which was to make a case for the Government's changes to the Patent Act, the Bill presently before the House of Commons.

I submit that it is absolutely wrong and kind of sleazy for the Government to take the names of people, without their

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approval, and sprinkle them throughout a press release. It implies, by association, that these individuals stand behind the point or the thesis being made by the particular press release. Quite frankly I think it is inappropriate.

I appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) indicated in his response that he was not aware of the press release. I am sure he was not aware of it because, if he had been aware of it, he would have said to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) that to use the names of these people would be inappropriate. That is exactly what he said, and I think it is totally out of order—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Order, please. I think both Hon. Members have had a chance to make their points. Should it be necessary, the Chair reserves a decision and the possibility to return to the point. However, at this time I think we should proceed.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I understand the Parliamentary Secretary was conveying a message on behalf of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). I should like very much for the Prime Minister himself to respond in the House as he indicated yesterday he would do and come clean on this question.

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Madam Speaker, I concur in the comments of the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) and of the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis). In my view it was in extremely poor taste for the Government of Canada to use the names of those three individuals.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Order, please. Hon. Members should realize that I have already ruled on the question and that we should now proceed.

● (1130)

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

#### CANADAIR LIMITED DIVESTITURE ACT

##### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed, from December 1, consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-25, an Act to authorize the divestiture of Canadair Limited and to provide for other matters in connection therewith, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Madam Speaker, I was a member of the Government that made a firm and unequivocal commitment to developing a genuine Canadian aerospace policy. This wise decision has made our country one of the world leaders in the aerospace industry. I therefore welcome this opportunity to speak to Bill C-25 and to say that, today, Canada has a strong dynamic and innovative aerospace