

Privilege—Ms. Copps

What are Canadian authorities doing to end this unjust imprisonment?

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the situation, namely that Mr. Laban was arrested on September 22, 1987 and that he has been detained since. We were notified on August 4 that the charges were dropped. But Mr. Laban is still in prison under the emergency measures. He is being held on the basis of regulations under an emergency law. Mr. Speaker, I think that Canada cannot ignore this case. Furthermore, the High Commission in Harare is following the situation very closely. Mr. Laban is being represented by a lawyer and we are monitoring the situation very closely.

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I understand that the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East rises on a point of order, but there is a prior question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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PRIVILEGE

STATEMENTS ASCRIBED TO MEMBER

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, very briefly, in the course of Question Period the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes), in commenting on my statement about the City of Hamilton being asked to take garbage from the City of Toronto, claimed that the word "Hamilton" was not used in the statement made by the Hon. Member for Etobicoke North (Mr. Pennock). If the Hon. Member took the time to read the statement he will see that Hamilton is described by the Hon. Member as self-serving, and that Hamilton is supposed to take it because of its incinerator capacity. So the statements ascribed to me by the Hon. Member for Calgary West are totally false and I would like him to correct the record.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, talk about falsity. I would invite the House to examine what the Member just said. She started out by talking about my comments in Question Period. I have answered no questions, I have asked no questions, I did not participate in Question Period. I think that exemplifies what I believe to be that Member's reputation for accuracy in the chamber.

If indeed an examination of *Hansard* shows that I have said anything that is incorrect, I would be very happy to stand in the Chamber and correct it. I have done that on two or three occasions in nine years because I do not like to make inaccurate statements in this Chamber. Yesterday I corrected the

Hansard record from the day before; I spoke correctly but *Hansard* reported it wrongly.

I would be glad to do it, but to accept in this Chamber her assertion about anything I said is something I am not prepared to do until I see the written record, because she is too often inaccurate in this Chamber about what Members say.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to adjourn this matter. I will return if necessary. I will look at the *Hansard* record and act accordingly.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I want—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East made her point. I am going to examine the *Hansard* record very carefully. If it is necessary I will hear the Hon. Member further. However, I am going to look at the record before there is any further debate on it.

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POINT OF ORDER

QUOTATION FROM DOCUMENT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period you called me to order and suggested that I should not quote a public report, in this case the second report of the Human Rights Committee, which was tabled yesterday. I think your words were that since it was a public report Hon. Members could read it. I would like to know from Your Honour—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I can help the Hon. Member. I did not say that it was inappropriate to quote a public report or anything else in the course of a question. I said that the quote was going on unduly long. I am sorry if in my comment I may not have made myself clear. The correction was only because there has to be some limit to the use of extensive quotes in questions. That, of course, applies equally in answers. I will certainly hear the Hon. Member further, but I do not want him to belabour the point that I in any way indicated that a report in this place ought not be referred to, or quoted at least in modest terms. I felt that the Hon. Member had gone on too long.

● (1510)

Mr. Allmand: I am pleased to have your clarification on the first point that I was going to make, Mr. Speaker. Before preparing that quote, I had checked with what has been said often with Ministers in answering questions, and I found that the quote that I made was in fact shorter than many of the quotes that are often made by Ministers in answering our questions. As a matter of fact, a day or two ago the Secretary of State went on for a very long period of time, quoting reports and things that he had done. If that is to be allowed on the