

Excise Tax Act

not think the Member said that the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) was an unparliamentary word but I did hear him say that the statement made by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre was not very truthful. Maybe the Chair would like to look at the "blues" to make sure that nothing has been said here that was not parliamentary. I am sure the Hon. Member for York South—Weston would not want at any time to be against the practices or the rules of this House. If the "blues" are exact, they will show that he was right and the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre was wrong.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Chair wishes to thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier).

[*Translation*]

As usual, his comments, his suggestions are almost always of great wisdom—

An Hon. Member: Not always.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Almost always, I know, in helping the Chair and in helping the Members of this House act as they should. I will take the Hon. Member's advice and we can, if necessary, come back to this subject a little later today. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) had the floor during the period for questions and comments.

[*English*]

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, I do hope you will look at the specific comment made by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston. He accused me of a lie. I do not believe that that is parliamentary language. I think that should be withdrawn. You will look at the "blues"—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I said a few moments ago that this was exactly what the Chair meant to do over the next few hours. I should like now Hon. Members to resume debate on the issue we are dealing with. Agreed?

Mr. Prud'homme: On the same point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) rises on a point of order.

Mr. Prud'homme: If I may, madam Speaker, I should like to ask you to be a little more explicit. If the NDP Member says that a Member of the Official Opposition did this or that, was at such or such a place, and that the latter states that it is a lie, what he really means is that it is not true. It is either true or not true. It cannot be half true. One cannot be partly somewhere. I submit therefore to the Chair that the Hon. Member should stick to the point, because it is not the first time that he came to Quebec to make statements which are exactly the opposite of what he said in other provinces. We just let it go.

But if he keeps it up, we are going to raise points of procedure all morning and, if necessary, all afternoon.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I thank the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme). Although I tried, my comments obviously were not clear enough, therefore I shall repeat. Following the advice of the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier, I said in the House that I would look at the blues as soon as they are typed, that we could return to this later if necessary, and that I was willing to let things stand for the time being. I asked the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) to resume debate on third reading of the Bill before the House and I interrupted him when he failed to continue with the debate, preferring rather to return to the unfortunate incidents of a few seconds ago. I therefore urge again the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre to address the issue before us. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) has the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Cassidy: Madam Speaker, I will comment very briefly on the comments made by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston who was critical of the record of New Democratic Party Governments in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. In Saskatchewan the NDP governed for decades without plunging the province into deficit, but since the current Conservative Government under Grant Devine has taken power that province has seen monumental deficits such as Saskatchewan had never known. They amount to \$3.2 billion. Through the 1981-82 recession the unemployment rate in Manitoba, which had an NDP Government, remained at the lowest level of any province in Confederation.

I happened to have a cup of coffee this morning with the Government Leader for the Yukon, my friend Tony Penikett. In the Yukon, just a few days ago, the Yukon NDP Government's economic strategy for the next 15 years called "Yukon 2000" was adopted unanimously by the legislature of the territory with the full support of both Liberal Party Members and of Conservative Party Members.

Those are points which seem to me to point to the kind of sound, sensible economic management that our Party has given in western Canada. We have made mistakes from time to time. Every Party does, but the sound, over-all management we have given to western Canada I believe we can now give as the national Government of Canada after the next election.

Mr. Orlikow: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) a question. We heard the spokesperson for the Liberal Party criticize the Conservative Government because of the large increases in excise, sales, and other taxes as if the Liberals, when they were in power, did not do so.

Would the Hon. Member confirm that one of the last recommendations made by Mr. Lalonde when he was the Liberal Finance Minister was to increase the sales tax by 1 per