

[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, there was a very vigorous exchange during Question Period about government appointments.

I learned from my father that one must never act in the heat of anger, but as the Standing Orders require, in such cases, the point must be raised at the first opportunity, I would not want people to think that I am passing it up. Since I was not present for the full exchange that took place between the person whom the Standing Orders require me to call the hon. minister and some of my colleagues, I would like to serve notice that I will read over what was said when I have a quiet moment, so that I can have an exact idea of what happened.

Right now, I would like to reserve my privilege to pursue this question. I hope that my colleagues will note once again that some things can be done in this House and others cannot, but above all, that anger is certainly the worst master when we have a discussion or wish to pursue a debate.

So I will try to heed that advice, but I assure you that I carefully noted only part of that exchange. I will examine it at leisure, but I will certainly act. I can assure you that I will act in my own way, which may not be the way others would act.

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, perhaps in this context it might be useful for me to make a point at this time. The hon. member for Saint-Denis was mentioned in the exchange and in particular his sister, Rita, who is a Citizenship Court judge.

Let me make the point very clearly that the Prime Minister, after 30 years of friendship with both the hon. member and his sister, directly intervened and was delighted to reappoint her a Citizenship Court judge. If there was any connotation of something wrong with that, I would certainly want to remove it from the hon. member's mind. There was certainly nothing wrong with

Point of Order

it. Judge Prud'homme was reappointed with pleasure and confidence that she would continue to do a good job.

I was simply making the point in regard to questions from the other side about a former spouse of a member that the relationship between family and talking about something being inappropriate is demeaning to the individual involved who is appointed. I do not think that is proper conduct in the House.

Michael McSweeney was mentioned. He is a graduate of the University of Ottawa. He has a masters degree in public administration from Harvard University. He is a former councillor and deputy mayor, precisely the kind of person who should be—

• (1505)

Mr. Speaker: We are getting into debate and I think we will leave it at that. The hon. member for Saint-Denis has raised the matter and he wishes to consider *Hansard*. I would hear him if he feels it is necessary to raise it further.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to get into this debate and I do not intend to. I rose on another reason. However, when the government House leader started to use names including that of Michael McSweeney, who is a very interesting individual whom I first employed in my office and I am not casting aspersions, in response to a situation—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. We are again getting into debate. I think the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants has a point of order though and I would hear it.

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POINT OF ORDER

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, I would not have mentioned Michael McSweeney but I do not equate him with Judy Dick.

Be that as it may, I do have a point of order. I see the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who is here more often now that she made a decision on her personal and political life—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member could make the point if there is one.