

Point of Order—Ms. Copps

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I thought I had already answered that question.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Exactly right. Three times.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I cannot say more than that we do everything humanly possible to make sure that no such events could occur again.

REPORTED REVELATIONS BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege concerning what took place today. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said that whatever took place 22 or 23 years ago, it was important today, just as it was then—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Don't put words in his mouth.

Mr. Rodriguez: If what is alleged took place, it was as wrong then as it is today. I suggest that there is *prima facie* evidence in the actual recorded statements of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) that the conversations in the Liberal caucus—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member is not making a case arising out of Question Period. He is making a case out of the entire subject. I am not going to rule one way or another right now but I am going to remind him of his obligation to give me that case in writing. That is not to prejudge his case.

Mr. de Corneille: That was the subject of the whole Question Period.

Mr. Speaker: The subject of Question Period was ministerial accountability.

Mr. de Corneille: Right, that is what he is talking about.

Mr. Speaker: No, he is talking about a different matter. That is the point I am trying to make.

Mr. Benjamin: We would like them to account for all of this.

Ms. Copps: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

REASON FOR DENIAL BY MR. SPEAKER OF MOTION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, according to Standing Order 56:

Whenever the Speaker is of the opinion that a motion offered to the House is contrary to the rules and privileges of Parliament, the Speaker shall apprise the House thereof immediately, before putting the question thereon, and quote the Standing Order or authority applicable to the case.

During Question Period there was a motion to have this whole issue moved to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections by the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner). That motion was denied. Can the Speaker cite the appropriate Standing Order under which he acted?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The procedural expert who does not know what a motion is.

Mr. Speaker: Let me say it one more time, and this is the last time I will say this. A question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) with regard to whether the Government is prepared to consider a motion may be a House Business question but it is not a matter of ministerial accountability. The Hon. Member knows as well that a motion cannot be put during Question Period. I did not rule out her question on the basis that she was attempting to put a motion—

Ms. Copps: I was asking about the question of the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner).

Mr. Hnatyshyn: There was no motion.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior (Mr. Penner) asked a question. If I remember, it was the first time a question with regard to that matter was raised. Someone answered it. I allowed the answer because it was the first time that that specific question had been put. I do not know what point—

Mr. Marchi: Point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. No. Presenting reports from Standing and Special Committees.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Marchi: Point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) will please resume his seat.

Mr. Marchi: I haven't made a point of order yet.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for York West will please resume his seat.

Mr. Marchi: Will you allow me to state my point of order?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York West will please resume his seat.

Mr. Marchi: If you are going to allow the—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will please resume his seat.

Mr. Marchi: Well, give me a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Stop that joke and recognize him!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate that Members feel strongly about this question of making representations but they are not raising points of order.

Ms. Copps: Then hear his point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. They are making representations.