

would think that the two Hon. Members should do the honourable and appropriate thing and withdraw those words and apologize.

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) has put his finger on a very sensitive issue indeed and I want to respond. He has raised a question of privilege. I refer to the same page of *Hansard*. He has quoted what I have said, but I want to read with care and deliberation what was said just immediately prior to that. As a Canadian who has worked hard for the development and progress of Canadians in all regions of my country let me quote what was said immediately prior to that by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney). He said this:

I know that my hon. friends in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties are opposed to the interests of western Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Broadbent: And I said:

That's a lie.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Riis: The regional racist is up again. Sit down, racist.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I think that in the interests of some of the decorum and dignity of this place, of which it is often capable, without foreclosing the right of Hon. Members to rise in answer to the point of order, which is really what the Deputy Prime Minister has raised, without making any judgment on the issue at the moment, I will adjourn this matter for one hour and I will come back to it.

The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata).

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED IMPUGNING OF INTEGRITY OF AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a separate question of privilege. Several days ago the Auditor General, an independent officer of Parliament, tabled his report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987. At Clause 16.89 through to 16.97 the Auditor General of Canada, and I repeat, an independent officer of Parliament, made some statements with regard to a particular federal grant to the West Edmonton Mall.

Today, during Question Period, the Government through the Deputy Prime Minister, and yesterday, put into question the integrity of the Auditor General of Canada by indicating—if I may finish my question of privilege—or implying that the

Auditor General of Canada was either deliberately misleading Parliament or presented to Parliament an incomplete report.

Mr. Speaker: I regret interrupting the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata), who has certainly in his intervention pointed out that there well may be a difference of opinion among different people as to certain matters that took place. However, I think that if one exams the debates carefully, one would find that the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) said that he did not have access to the files of the Auditor General and as a consequence was not in a position to know upon what basis the Auditor General may or may not have said something.

• (1510)

I must say to all Hon. Members that I did not take it from anything that was said by the Deputy Prime Minister that he was impugning in any way the integrity of the Auditor General of Canada. If the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) can go back over the *Hansard* report of today and tomorrow, or at a time when he can be here, depending on his other responsibilities, he can indicate to me that that is in fact what happened, then of course I would listen very carefully and consider it very carefully. However, given the fact that the memory of the Chair is such that I do not think that in fact happened, I would ask the Hon. Member to consider the “blues” and then perhaps he would like to return to the Chair.

Mr. Nunziata: If I may complete my point, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Copps: Point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) in a moment.

Ms. Copps: This is on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the Hon. Member in a moment. Perhaps I can just tidy this matter up. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) may have something to briefly add that may help the Chair.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I have raised the point of privilege. I would simply request, Sir, that you review the “blues” today and review *Hansard* of yesterday when the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) and other Ministers of the Crown accused opposition Members of being anti-western Canadian because they criticized this particular grant. By implication, they are suggesting that the Auditor General is anti-western Canadian for criticizing the grant.

Mr. Speaker: I take it that the Hon. Member's question of privilege is that in some way, the Government's response to questions may have impugned the integrity of the Auditor General who is a servant of this place which consequently affects the privilege of Hon. Members including the one who has raised the complaint. That is the issue the Chair will consider and I would ask the Hon. Member to look carefully at