

*Speaker's Ruling*

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member on a point of order.

**Mr. Flis:** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to remind hon. members, especially the ones who have been here for such a long time, and I too have petitions, that we can simply table them with the Clerk of the House and the petitions are tabled without seeking unanimous consent of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think the hon. member has unanimous consent of the House anyway.

**An hon. member:** Yes, he has.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, let me put the question again to the House.

The hon. member for Trinity—Spadina has asked the unanimous consent to present a petition. Does he have unanimous consent?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### PETITIONS

#### IMMIGRATION

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

This is a petition on behalf of families who have been separated for years and may be separated for years more. I am asking that the minister of immigration issue minister's permits for spouses and dependent children of refugee claimants who have been permitted to apply for landing from within Canada, including persons in the backlog and persons accepted under the new legislation, and allow them to be reunited in Canada for inland processing.

This has been signed by 25 residents of the city of Toronto.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have a question for the Prime Minister, if I may.

• (1520)

I am wondering if the Prime Minister has had an opportunity to review the *Hansard* of yesterday and if he

would wish to make a statement with respect to the exchanges which took place yesterday at three o'clock.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, I thought that perhaps goodwill was going to take over and prevail in the end.

As I indicated earlier, I sat here and my colleague the Minister for International Trade was not here. The Deputy Prime Minister, the minister of youth who was sitting behind the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Whip who was sitting behind the Prime Minister absolutely and categorically deny that those comments were made.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Andre:** Let me finish my comments. As was quite accurately and properly pointed out this morning during debate, the supposition that an accusation can be made in this House and the accused must somehow stand up and explain or apologize is something I simply cannot accept as a precedent.

I heard what the Prime Minister said. He did not say what was attributed to him, and frankly that should be the end of it.

**Mr. Dingwall:** Mr. Speaker, my colleague from LaSalle—Émard stood today and he corrected an exchange that took place. There are members on this side of the House who believe an exchange took place.

I ask the right hon. Prime Minister, and this is my final question, if he does not see fit to stand in his place and make a statement with regard to the exchange that took place yesterday at three o'clock.

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### POINT OF ORDER

#### COMMENT IN QUESTION PERIOD—SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond has raised the matter which engaged us yesterday and also this morning. The hon. the government House leader has made his position quite clear. I am going to try to deal with the situation we find ourselves in as succinctly as I can.

Yesterday the hon. members for Winnipeg North Centre, Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and Hamilton East urged the Chair to review *Hansard* and the electronic tape, alleging that the Right Hon. the Prime Minister had used unparliamentary language and consequently caused disorder.

There were other members who wished to be heard, but I took the position that I had the point that was