

Point of Order—Mr. Epp

Minister announced that he was deferring any changes in the federal sales tax proposals until May, 1984. Can the Minister give this House absolute assurance that he will not try to introduce these changes piecemeal, product by product in the interval, say, for instance, in lumber and building products?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I can tell the Hon. Member that I am not contemplating any such step. He knows, however, that the task force has been agreed to. It is being set up, and consultations will take place. Obviously if there was unanimity on the task force in the private sector that certain steps would be taken, I would want to look at the advisability of proceeding with certain steps, but I can tell the Hon. Member that neither my Department nor myself is considering any such step at the present time. We have never discussed this matter.

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Provencher.

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport—

Madam Speaker: I am sorry, I thought the Hon. Member was rising on a question of privilege, of which he had given me notice. Questions of privilege are not exactly in the order in which I received them, but he was the only Hon. Member rising. I would just like Hon. Members to allow me to put an end to the Question Period, and I will do it this way.

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[Translation]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill C-140, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1983.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. EPP—ALLEGED UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE OF MR. HARQUAIL

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I want to raise a question of privilege of which I gave you written notice today. I would ask you, Madam Speaker, to take a look at yesterday's *Hansard* at page 21585. You will note that *Hansard* records my name in two different places and that I was rising on a point of privilege. Circumstances being what they were yesterday afternoon, a vote was called by you and with the ringing of the bells there was no opportunity for me after ten o'clock last night to raise my question of privilege, and it is for that reason that I do so today.

Yesterday during the events of the afternoon there was an exchange between myself and the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail) during which the Hon. Member for Restigouche, I presume wanting to participate in the debate at that time, was trying to get your eye. I suggested to him, as there were exchanges across the floor, that he should not rise and not further embarrass himself. The Member for Restigouche made a comment which I believe was, first, unparliamentary and, second, I believe it was obscene.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Just to put this procedure more in conformity with our rules, the Hon. Member should be rising on a point of order and not on a question of privilege. Otherwise I need not hear him and can tell him that he does not have a question of privilege. The Hon. Member does have a point of order. If he wants to raise a point of order, I will entertain it.

Mr. Nowlan: I have a question of privilege, Madam Speaker, which takes precedence over a point of order.

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, I will take your advice. I will continue where I left off. I believe the comment was, first, unparliamentary and, second, I believe it was obscene. Third, I believe the comment was unworthy of any Member in the House, to raise matters in the manner in which that one was raised.

I notice that the comment is not recorded in *Hansard*. I have checked with a number of my colleagues on this side of the House to confirm whether or not they heard the comment made by the Hon. Member for Restigouche. A number of them assured me both yesterday and today that they heard the words used by the Hon. Member from Restigouche. Even though the matter is not recorded in *Hansard*, it is important the words of Hon. Members in this House be taken as the truth. Even though the words were not recorded in *Hansard*—and I have no intention of repeating them and thus entering them into the pages of *Hansard*—these types of exchanges are unworthy of all Members in the House and I would ask that the words uttered yesterday by the Hon. Member for Restigouche, confirmed by Members at least on this side of the House as having been made, be withdrawn.

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, on this particular subject raised by the Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp), he admits that I did not have the floor, that I had not been successful in getting your attention. The Hon. Member has just stated that I did not have the opportunity to participate in the normal way. He confirms that I had not been successful in being recognized to participate at a very crucial time in the exchange and in the debate that was taking place at the time which, as Your Honour will only too well recall, resulted in a five-hour bell.

As I was trying to get the floor to make a correction for the House by pointing out that the Minister had already begun his remarks and that you had given the floor to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), at that point a dozen or more Members were heckling. It is very little wonder that the