

ular country. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, and that is an acknowledged fact.

Second, the acknowledged fact that he did sign or did complete his oath of allegiance to the Queen. No matter how distasteful I may find the views of particular members, if they are duly elected, have signed the appropriate oaths and enter this Chamber, they have a right to present those views.

That in no way should lead one to conclude that members of this party or anywhere in the House would agree with some of the statements and some of the positions that may emanate from that particular member.

I want to put on the record, Mr. Speaker, facts to help you in your adjudication because this is really a dispute as to the allegations of fact. We have had members who have renounced their oath to the Queen at a public ceremony. It was thereafter reported in the press.

An hon. member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Dingwall: Just a minute. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is interrupting. Just give me an opportunity to put some facts on the record.

It was reported in *The Ottawa Citizen* of September 20, 1990: "Bloc MP to wash hands of his oath of allegiance". That was the headline. It may be misleading; it may not be misleading. This is the quote that the author in the newspaper article used, and I wish to read it to you, Mr. Speaker:

Gilles Duceppe who won a Commons seat in a Montreal by-election recently, said Wednesday he will swear his devotion to the people of Quebec to counteract the oath of allegiance he had to swear to the Queen before being allowed to take his place in the House.

"It is a symbolic gesture", said Duceppe, reached at his Montreal riding office.

An hon. member: What is your point?

Mr. Dingwall: The hon. member does not like to hear those things; only when he can twist the arguments to his benefit. I am trying to put before you, Mr. Speaker, some of the facts. That is the problem, that the argument is with regard to disputing the facts.

If the hon. member has not said these things, I think the hon. member has an obligation to inform members of this House, to inform the Chair, and to inform Cana-

dians that his Oath of Allegiance to the Queen is firmly intact.

Privilege

In *The Ottawa Citizen* of September 24 again there is another fact. The hon. member does not have to agree with it but it is a fact. The headline was: "Separatist supporters in Hull cheer MP's protest oath". Therefore, Mr. Speaker, you can see where hon. members sincerely would question what is taking place.

I provide this information to you, Mr. Speaker, to assist you in your adjudication, reminding you of Beauchesne's definition of the point of privilege, which is paragraph 24; paragraph 26 which draws the distinction between question of privilege and question of order; and of course paragraph 31, which says:

A dispute arising between two Members, as to allegations of facts, does not fulfil the conditions of parliamentary privilege.

I give that to you, Mr. Speaker, on your instructions so that you can adjudicate accordingly, but this matter has resulted from certain statements that have been made by hon. members either intentionally or unintentionally.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Under the circumstances, I feel there is a difference of opinion as to the facts. I think it would be appropriate to recognize the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie for a very short reply.

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Instead of relying on newspaper reports, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Liberal Party should ask their political minions who had come to the Hull ceremony to cause a row to see whether I had really made disparaging remarks against the Queen or against Parliament. Quite the contrary, Mr. Speaker: We insisted that it is with the outmost respect for Canadian Parliamentary institutions that we are sitting here, while insisting that we would strive to achieve Quebec's sovereignty as soon as possible. That is the solemn promise we made Quebecers. If the Liberal Party does not agree with that, it is, I know, because it does not understand what is going on in Quebec; my impression now is that they do not even want to know. But, that is not our problem, Mr. Speaker. If they rely on newspapers, they will have to correct a lot of things which were said about Jean Chrétien over the past few days. Let them find out from their political minions, paid with taxpayers' money, what I said—