

*Government Orders**[English]*

Madam Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I would ask the hon. member for Calgary West—

An hon. member: Shut up his mouth.

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: I really do not need the kind of advice that I just heard on my left when I am talking to a member in the House. I believe that I worked in a friendly, fair and honest way all week with the members and I think that they can trust me and let me finish when I am talking to another member.

[English]

I would ask the hon. member for Calgary West not to imply things that will automatically bring chaos into this place. Out of respect for the institution of Parliament, I would ask him to please come back to the subject at hand. It would be much appreciated.

Mr. Hawkes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have great respect for this House.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I now have a question of privilege.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérin: Question of privilege, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead on a question of privilege.

Mr. Gérin: Madam Speaker, I did hear the comments you just made to the member and government whip. However, given his responsibilities in this government, the member must do more than avoid creating chaos. He just insulted all members of the Bloc Québécois to whom he refused, as Whip, the right to participate in any constitutional committee, the right to be represented at all the constitutional conferences, in spite of the official requests that we made to him. The member has consistently refused us the right to speak.

I would ask him, through the Chair, to not only comply with the resolution tabled by his government and avoid using abusive language that, as you said, leads to disorder in this House, but also to correct the facts and to retract his comments, because he is at fault.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I listened carefully to the comments made by the member for Calgary West, as well as by the member for Mégantic—Compton—Stanstead. I believe that we must not mix different things. The hon. member refers to his presence as well as that of some of his colleagues on committees, but this is a decision that was not made by anybody. It is simply based on our rules, and I believe that we all know that. Consequently, we must not mix things up.

I am convinced that the hon. member for Calgary West will, in a minute, formulate comments that will restore peace in the House for the end of this debate. Indeed, some apology might be in order.

[English]

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, perhaps it was my second language. If I went over the bounds of decorum in the House, I do apologize. I have great respect for this Chamber. I heard the member opposite talking about the absence of members on this side of the House, so I assumed that somehow or other it was appropriate to talk about absence on the other side of the House as well. I know that we are never supposed to talk about absence and therefore I will talk about presence, if you do not mind.

I was present on an airplane a week ago Sunday to be available at the—

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, I have a point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Plamondon: Madam Speaker, in order to help restore a better atmosphere, I want to mention that I never said that the Conservative members were not in the House. I said that they were not participating in the debate. That is the difference and perhaps my colleague has—

• (1730)

Madam Deputy Speaker: We are now on a point of debate not a point of order. Now that apologies have been received, I would like to proceed in an appropriate manner. The hon. member for Calgary West.

[English]

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, we have had a caucus committee on the Constitution of Canada and a referen-