Income Tax

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): I have been checking Beauchesne. I find that on various occasions the word "hypocrite" or "hypocritical" has not been found to be out of order. However, the overriding principle stands, and it is the responsibility of the Chair to consider the mood of the House, to consider the expressions used and, to consider their context. I am of the opinion that when the Hon. Member calls another Hon. Member a liar or indicates that he believes that person has lied, and when he uses the word "hypocrite" or "hypocritical" in the same connection, then the responsibility of the Chair is to find that that is unparliamentary language. I so find.

Therefore, I will explain to the Hon. Member that tradition calls upon the Chair to extend to the Hon. Member every possible opportunity to consider whether he wishes to observe the requests of the Chair by withdrawing his remarks, in the sense of good order. If the Hon. Member refuses to accept the ruling of the Chair, then I have a further responsibility, and that becomes the business of naming the Hon. Member, with which I think he is familiar. The whole matter is an unpleasant task for the Chair, and I do not think really does much for the institution itself.

Therefore, I would ask the Hon. Member if he would be so kind, pursuant to the ruling of the Chair, to withdraw the remarks or the word, to which we have finally come to a conclusion, and that is either "hypocrite" or "hypocritical". If he would be so kind as to do that, we can get on with the business of the House.

Mr. Greenaway: I respect what you are saying, Mr. Speaker, and I respect the argument of the Parliamentary Secretary. However, last week people came to my office in tears. I have written to the Minister of Agriculture. He has done nothing. As far as I am concerned, he is a hypocrite and you can do what you want with me.

Mr. Neil: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I appreciate the position of the Chair, but over the years there have certainly been unparliamentary expressions used in the House, and I think they are clearly spelled out in Beauchesne. My understanding is that the word "hypocrite" is not found in the list of unparliamentary terms set out in Beauchesne. I would submit that in the absence of the word being specifically spelled out in Beauchesne as unparliamentary, then while the word is not a particularly complimentary one, an Hon. Member is entitled to make use of that word.

(1240)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Hon. Member for Essex-Kent on the same point of order.

Mr. Daudlin: Mr. Speaker, I think we now find ourselves in a double difficulty. I think the Chair has in fact found, in the context and circumstances of the use first of the word "liar" and then as a substitute therefor the use of the words "hypocrite" and "hyprocrisy", that in the circumstances this constituted, in the Chair's opinion, a disorder and, as a conse-

quence, a ruling was made of disorder and the request was made for withdrawal.

I think that it is too late, quite frankly, to make the argument that the word is, is not, should not have been so declared and, as a matter of fact, to do so constitutes a reflection on an Order of the Chair, which clearly is a disorder and unacceptable in this House.

As a consequence, I put to you, Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate circumstance that we either have to move forward with a withdrawal, which the Hon. Member unfortunately appears to prefer not to do—and again I call on him to do so—or otherwise we are left with the unfortunate provisions of the rule which you, Mr. Speaker, are called upon to make use of.

I did want to enter the debate purely to reflect on the fact that an Order of the Chair now exists, and as a consequence it would be a disorder, in my view, to reflect on that Order or that finding.

Mr. Fretz: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, the Hon. Member for Cariboo-Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway), withdrew the use of the word "liar", apologized to the Chair and said that he would withdraw that word. So really that does not enter into the debate at this time. He then used another word, "hypocrite" or "hypocritical", which the Hon. Member has found is not in Beauchesne. I submit that inasmuch as he apologized and withdrew the word "liar", the Hon. Member should be allowed to continue his speech.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, this has been called a long, complicated and confusing Bill. Just about everything possible has happened to it since the ideas were originally introduced in November of 1981. Perhaps it would be only appropriate if we end up our debate on third reading by having this kind of confrontation involving a Member and a Minister, neither of whom really has anything directly at stake in this Bill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): If I may sum up, the Hon. Member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil) raised the issue as to whether or not the word "hypocrite" or "hypocritical" is to be found in the authorities. I think that in the actual words that he used, he indicated that the word is not found in Beauchesne. That is not correct; the word is to be found in discussions in Beauchesne as to what is parliamentary or not. I think I understood the Hon. Member for Moose Jaw to make the point that it is not to be found in Beauchesne as a prohibited word. More accurately, it used to be a prohibited word and seems to have shifted toward a situation where it is in some occasions, in any event, not a prohibited word.

It is the responsibility of the Chair—and this Hon. Members will find through any of the texts on the subject—whether the word used or in question is on a forbidden list or not on a forbidden list, to point out that what is essential to a ruling on the question of whether a word must be withdrawn is the context and the mood in which the language is used. That is a responsibility of the Chair. The fact that the word was used immediately contiguous to the accusation of lying is what has