

absolutely parliamentary. It was not out of order; in fact, it was in order. This place is not any thing else but a place of debate where strong positions are taken on issues that are important. Of course, that must be done within the confines of appropriate parliamentary language. I do not believe that any unparliamentary language was used, and I am sure if it was the Leader of the Opposition would be the first to recognize it.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** On this particular point, Madam Speaker, the question is always a very difficult and narrow one. I think I have been able to detect during the exercise by the government House leader and others on the government side this question of attributing motives to members of the opposition, trying to silence them in that way. What I would suggest to the House leader is the difference is this, that if the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) said the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) would be failing in his duty if he failed to do something with a report, that would not be attributing a motive at all; that is, if he failed to do something having received a report. On the other hand, if I were to suggest that the intervention by the government House leader was an attempt to intimidate the Chair, then that would be a clear attribution of a motive to the government House leader.

I have used that example merely to establish the distinction in his mind, and I trust in the minds of my colleagues in the House. Unfortunately every time there seems to be criticism of the government side there is immediately this attempt to rise and say that members of the opposition are attributing motives. That is not the case. I would hold that there was no such thing on the part of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition at all, in any way. This is merely a misinterpretation of the rules by the government House leader to his advantage.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[Translation]

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I have not yet given the floor to the hon. minister. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General (Mr. Ouellet) sought the floor before the Minister of Justice. I will hear him now. Afterwards I will hear the Minister of Justice if he still has something to add. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** On the same point of order, Madam Speaker, I would like to point out that the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) may have acted involuntarily—and that is where we will see whether he is a gentleman or not—but he very clearly imputed motives to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien). Not only did he do that, but he also—voluntarily or not, it is for him to say, but I think it is important that he does if he has a minimum of seriousness and responsibility—stated, erroneously, that it was my duty to submit a report to the Minister of Justice, whereas it is very clear that that duty is not incumbent upon the Minister of

*Point of Order—Mr. Chrétien*

Consumer and Corporate Affairs but solely upon the director of investigation. It was my officials who, pursuant to section 15, submitted the document to the Department of Justice. Therefore, I think that the right hon. Leader of the Opposition will at least have to be honest enough to admit that he was wrong and to withdraw the accusations he made against the Minister of Justice and, second, to withdraw as well the wrong impression he gave about me and my responsibilities.

[English]

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry, but I thought the hon. Minister of Justice was not rising again. If he is, it is his turn to be heard and then I will hear the hon. parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker, I do not want to create a controversy, and it is very seldom I get up on a point of order, but on this point of order I would like to say that, as the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) said a moment ago, it might be an error made in the heat of debate by the Leader of the Opposition, who said the report had been transmitted to me by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs so it would be hidden. That is a very serious point, Madam Speaker, because the report had not been transmitted to me by the minister; it had been transmitted to me by the director.

I would like to take just a minute to explain for those who do not understand that law that my duty is to look into—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** Don't make an ass of yourself.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I know the hon. minister feels very strongly about the exchange that has been taking place in the House, but he must recognize that the Chair is also in difficulty because the Chair cannot allow the minister to comment or to continue with the explanations he has given and on which I ruled that he did not have a question of privilege. All I have done is rule that he did not have a question of privilege.

I will now hear the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Collenette).

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I am rising on a point of order in relation to the comments made by the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker). I think what is at issue here, and I am speaking strictly to the rules—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I would like to be sure that the hon. parliamentary secretary is speaking to the rules. Is he speaking on the same point of order or is he introducing a new point of order?