

Borrowing Authority

Ms. Copps: Oh, come on!

Mr. Riis: That kind of behaviour from the Liberal Party, day after day, month after month—

Ms. Copps: That is outrageous.

Mr. Riis: —the hypocrisy, the two-facedness, the conflict—

An Hon. Member: Sit down; at least have the decency to do that.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I do believe that it is unparliamentary language for the Hon. Member to refer to politicians as the equivalent of child molesters. I think every Member in the House would agree that he should withdraw that statement.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege—

Mr. Keeper: We did not interrupt your speech.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I did not hear anything in that regard. If I see something in *Hansard* tomorrow that I feel should be withdrawn, I will bring it to the attention of the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member for Saint-Henri-Westmount (Mr. Johnston) is rising on a point of order or privilege.

Mr. Johnston: I rise on a point of privilege. I am sure the Hon. Member, when he gets over his temporary bout of hysteria, will recognize that “hypocrite” is also unparliamentary. I believe it has been defined as such and has been discussed before in the House. I would add that to the list of withdrawals which should take place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): “Hypocrite” is on both lists; it depends on how it is used. Let me have a look at *Hansard*. I do not know whether there is a full moon tonight or what is happening here. However, we should have a little decorum. I will look at this tomorrow and I will see what *Hansard* indicates. I would like the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) to carry on, but first I will recognize the Hon. Member for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin).

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, I too will be interested in hearing the results of your deliberations on that question of privilege. On a point of order, I would just like to seek clarification. I understood, subject to the rules which were brought in in the last Parliament, that speeches given in this Chamber during this time were subject to questions and answers.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Would the Hon. Member please take his seat. The initial part of this debate provides for 40-minute speeches with no questions. Thereafter there are 20-minute speeches with questions and comments.

Mr. Tobin: Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I hope the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap will be able to carry on with his speech.

Mr. Riis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think enough has been said.

An Hon. Member: Show some courtesy.

Ms. Copps: To make a comment about child molesters—

An Hon. Member: On the level of—

Ms. Copps: To make a comment like that is absolutely—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please.

Mr. Riis: I seem to have touched a nerve among those of the Liberal Party in the House today.

An Hon. Member: That’s right, a very sensitive nerve.

Mr. Riis: I certainly have touched a nerve.

Ms. Copps: Because we are concerned about that.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, in light of your ruling in terms of unparliamentary language, of course if you find that I did utter unparliamentary language, I would be the first to stand back from it.

Ms. Copps: It does not become you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I would like to remind the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) that this is not the Ontario Legislature.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): If we are to carry on with business in this House, I would appreciate the proper decorum—

Mr. Tobin: There were Members across the floor speaking.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Thank you.

Mr. Tobin: That is an unbecoming comment from the Chair, I must say.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have heard the Hon. Member’s remarks. I heard him yesterday too as he was getting awfully close to the point where I think it was unparliamentary of him also. I will not carry on any more as far as that is concerned, but I would like to bring it to his attention also.

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw!

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to abuse the privileges of the House, but when I spoke about the issue of child molesters, I had no intention of impinging on the integrity of any Hon. Member. I frankly find it a very serious allegation, and I would have only hoped that members of the New Democratic Party would have taken that issue more seriously.