

Privilege

which all members including the Prime Minister must comply.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that you would take that under advisement and at the appropriate time report to the House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member. I certainly will consider very carefully the comments that were made. If it is appropriate to report back to the House, I shall.

I must also say that I always depend on hon. members for help and guidance along the way. I appreciate the hon. member's comments.

I have a question of privilege of which I have notice arising out of these matters. I really think I must move to it. The hon. member for Mégantic—Compton—Stansstead.

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[*Translation*]

PRIVILEGE**COMMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY MEMBER FOR CAPE BRETON—EAST RICHMOND**

Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic—Compton—Stansstead): Mr. Speaker, during the debate that just took place, the hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond referred to the members sitting in this row, all of whom belong to the Bloc Québécois, and claimed they had renounced their oath of allegiance to the Queen.

I say the hon. member had no right to make these comments which may have various implications. It is a very serious matter to claim that someone did not keep his oath. As I see it, Mr. Speaker, there is a big difference between someone who does not believe in the constitutional monarchy and someone who believes that Quebecers and Canadians in general would prefer to change the system in a constitutional manner. I don't think this is renouncing one's oath. If we want to change democratically what we consider to be an anachronism and a mere symbol, I think we have a right to do so, while preserving our full allegiance to the people of Quebec and our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to mention this because it has come up several times since the House resumed sitting. I would therefore ask the Chair to take a position on this matter immediately and ask the hon. member to withdraw his comments. If not, he should be expelled from this House because he is the one who, by making such remarks, will disrupt for a long time the business of the House.

We come here in a spirit of cooperation to put forward our ideas and that of the Quebecers who are our constituents and, under no circumstance, will we allow a member of this House—and we urge the Chair to help us—suggest that we reneged on our allegiance in any way.

It is not to renege to ask for constitutional reform, for one thing, and , at the same time, that the Queen of Canada be replaced by the people of Canada. That stands to reason and I think that even the Queen would agree on that point.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the Queen was particularly embarrassed, as were all Canadians and Quebecers, when the prime minister went and made her the request he made.

I ask you to support us, Mr. Speaker, by requesting from the member for Cape Breton—East Richmond to apologize to this House and to take back what he said.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may reply.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, it is rather ironic that we would have a member who professes in one statement to be a member of a group that wishes to be a party in this House, and on the other hand he says very clearly that they have taken their oath of allegiance and their oath of allegiance is now to the Queen, when in point of fact—

Mr. Barrett: Point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member on a point of order.

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, to what particular motion are we speaking? What order are we dealing with? What is the point we are dealing with?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I could help the hon. member. I heard others crying for help too.