

Point of Order—Mr. Clark (Yellowhead)

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to respond to the concern raised by the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton). I would begin by indicating that I would not be one to physically accost another Hon. Member, certainly not a fellow Member from British Columbia, and one who could probably do a pretty fine job on me if I were even to attempt to do something.

Mr. Oberle: I don't know about that.

Mr. Siddon: Second, I did not call the Hon. Member a liar. What I referred to the Hon. Member was my concern over a statement he is alleged to have made in British Columbia. To quote from a *Canadian Press* story datelined Terrace, British Columbia, it reads:

New Democrat Jim Fulton said Thursday in his home riding that "Siddon has initialled a tentative agreement with the Aluminium Company of Canada regarding water flows in the Nechako River in northwestern British Columbia." He went on to say, "The deal will allow Alcan to release only half the amount of water that fisheries department scientists calculate is needed to ensure the survival of salmon stocks in the river."

Furthermore, in a statement in this House last Thursday the Hon. Member for Skeena said, and I am quoting from page 7601 of *Hansard*:

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) has now sold out to Alcan with a private deal on water flows at only one-half of what his own scientists filed in court as the minimum required.

I categorically say to this House that there has been no agreement signed with Alcan regarding the Nechako water flows or the river diversion project. There are discussions under way of which the Hon. Member was apprised in a full briefing yesterday. No document has been initialled. In that respect, if he stands up in this House and alleges there has, then I could say he is misleading this House.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to put my seat on the line that in the lobby the Minister called me a liar, and he had bloody well better withdraw it.

Mr. Friesen: Oh, wonderful!

Some Hon. Members: Grandstanding!

Mr. Speaker: We are faced with an allegation by an Hon. Member that another Hon. Member has called him a liar outside the Chamber, as well as there being some physical altercation. There seems to be disagreement between the Hon. Member and the Hon. Minister as to what took place. There is certainly a disagreement between them with respect to another matter. Whatever was said was not said in the Chamber and the Chair did not hear it. Neither did other Hon. Members. Whatever happened, happened outside the Chamber and was not seen by the Chair or by other Hon. Members.

I invite both the Minister and the Hon. Member, who are both well and favourably known to the Chair as fellow British Columbia Members of Parliament, to retire perhaps to one or the other of the lobbies—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: —and perhaps settle their differences, ensuring that in whatever way they do so they stay out of the Chamber.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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POINT OF ORDER

SUGGESTED CORRECTION TO STATEMENT OF MEMBER

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) prefaced important questions to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) with a rendition of events in my Province of Alberta which may not have been correct. As I understood it, he suggested that a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta had been censured by that assembly for using French in the Legislature. My understanding is that the censure had to do with a failure to uphold the authority of the Chair. I think that is a material difference about which the House and the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier, who has now taken his seat, would want to take note.

[*Translation*]

The Prime Minister responded to a question of principle. He clearly indicated the attitude of our Government with respect to the official languages, as well as our commitment and determination to promote the expansion of the official languages. As a Member from Alberta, I have been in a position to see for myself that my Alberta colleagues here in this House and the great majority of my fellow citizens in Alberta share this attitude of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I consider that the Minister is raising a point of debate, but since he took the floor I should like to point out to the House that the work done by the Member for Ottawa—Vanier in this case is based on reports and letters to the Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly, to Mr. Piquette of Alberta, to an impressive number of people, associations and representatives of such various interest groups as the *Fédération des francophones hors Québec*, Alliance Québec, and other groups.

I accept the remark of the Member, namely that when MLA Léo Piquette spoke French in the Chamber he was called to order by the Speaker who said: In English, please. Then Léo Piquette had to comply. The matter was referred to a parliamentary committee on procedure and Standing Orders. The committee demanded that Mr. Piquette apologize. And that is where the matter stands today.

Reports in yesterday's *Le Devoir*, *La Presse* and other newspapers indicate that it was Mr. Piquette who said yesterday, in answer to a question, that he was 80 per cent