He comes to the committee, makes an arrangement with us, goes back to his caucus, and then comes back and says that he is sorry, but he cannot keep the deal he made yesterday because he has been instructed by his caucus to change his mind. That occurred yesterday at the committee. If I had the transcripts with me I would bring them, but I will do it at an appropriate time.

As a member of the finance committee I want to use this opportunity to explain the reason for this motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Essex—Windsor on a point of order.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, as a fellow member of the finance committee I think that when a serious charge such as that is made by a member of an important committee of this House, either the member should be prepared to substantiate such a serious charge or else should withdraw that charge immediately, and I ask the Speaker so to rule.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I do not really know what the charge is. Would the hon. member for Essex—Windsor please tell me what the charge is.

Mr. Langdon: The charge, which certainly I heard from the member for Edmonton Northwest was that a certain deal had been made by the member for Yorkton—Melville and that subsequently the member for Yorkton—Melville—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I need a transcript to see what happened in committee. What the hon. member talked about happened in committee and we are now in the House of Commons. Therefore the hon. member for Edmonton Northwest has the floor on debate. I cannot rule on what was done in committee.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I am not talking about what took place in committee. It was in fact the member across the way who was talking about what took place in committee. He made a charge in this House as to what took place in committee, a charge which accused my fellow committee member of the finance committee of breaking his word in committee.

That is an extremely serious charge. It cannot be permitted to stand, either without proof or without withdrawal. I simply appeal to this member to withdraw that charge as unworthy of him and unworthy of his party.

• (1720)

Mr. Dorin: Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw any charges that anyone might be offended by, which I am not particularly aware of—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Fine, the hon. member has withdrawn. On debate, the hon. member for Edmonton Northwest has the floor.

Mr. Dorin: I would like to try to establish why I talked about the committee procedure. For someone to suggest in this House, or anywhere in the country for that matter, that somehow this issue has not received sufficient debate in Parliament or outside Parliament strains the credibility of anyone who might suggest that. I can think of no other issue, perhaps with the exception of the free trade debate in the last Parliament, where there has been a greater degree of debate and discussion in and outside Parliament.

Popularity or lack thereof is one issue, but I believe that no one could suggest that there has been a lack of debate or discussion. I have been a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, which has had this issue on its agenda for at least four years. We have studied it, had extensive hearings, different studies, examinations, and even a foreign visit. There have been changes made along the way to improve it and to meet the concerns some of the people have presented to us.

There is no doubt, in terms of examining all the available information, that the case has been met by any common sense yardstick. Therefore the argument today that more debate in Parliament or in the country would somehow change the dynamics of this issue is unfounded and unwarranted.

In this regard the procedures of the committee on this bill are relevant. In advance of the second reading vote on the bill, given the expectation that the committee would be given responsibility for consideration of the bill, the finance committee agreed on a method of proceeding. That method was endorsed at a planning committee meeting on February 12, with consideration of the bill to continue and commence with meetings with officials from the Department of Finance.

Without complaint, notice, explanation or even courtesy, the official members of that committee from the New Democratic Party abrogated their responsibility as committee members and sent in their stead two other