

*Points of Order*

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, during the time when my Leader was making his points, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), was yelling and hurling insults in an attempt to disrupt my Leader. I suspect that in a moment of weakness, albeit probably true, I indicated what I thought of the Right Hon. Member. I recognize his point, that the term—

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Sleazebag.

**Mr. Riis:**—sleazebag, thank you, Mr. Minister, is unparliamentary. As a parliamentarian, recognizing the inappropriate use of that term, I certainly withdraw it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Knowing the Hon. Member as I do, perhaps it was only a momentary lapse.

The Hon. Member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields) on a point of order?

## ALLEGED ACCUSATION AGAINST ALL MEMBERS

**Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to belabour this but I think something else that happened yesterday is also serious. The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap was asked to withdraw his accusation of kickbacks concerning the Deputy Prime Minister, and he did so. Then it had to be brought up again. I would just repeat what the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs said:

The record shows unequivocally that twice the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap accused someone on the government side of taking kickbacks. He says he did not mean the Deputy Prime Minister. He must then have been referring to another Minister from Alberta, to all Ministers on the government side or—

**Mr. Speaker:** Again, I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member but this matter has been completely settled.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** No, with respect, it has not.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then perhaps I can receive some guidance as to the extent to which there may be something new.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Get to the point, Jack.

**Mr. Speaker:** I was certainly under the impression that the matter had been settled. If I am incorrect, I will hear Hon. Members further.

**Mr. Shields:** Mr. Speaker, the point I am trying to make is that it was made clear in the request by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that the accusation against all Members of this House be withdrawn unequivocally. The Hon. Member rose and said:

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question. I certainly do that. I withdraw any accusation, any implication that that term might suggest for either the Deputy Prime Minister or any other Member of Cabinet.

He was asked to withdraw with respect to all Members of this House of Commons. I happen to be a Member of this

House of Commons. I was very active as chairman of the Alberta caucus in lobbying for and getting a grant for the West Edmonton Mall because all of us in the Alberta caucus felt it was necessary.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Not Kindy.

**Mr. Shields:** At that point unemployment was ravaging Edmonton and it was the only construction job going. With that in mind I would ask that he withdraw the allegation against all Members of this House of Commons, particularly those on this side of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** First, I want to say to the Hon. Member that, on reflection, clearly I was incorrect and I apologize to Members for that. Yesterday the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap did withdraw, as the Hon. Member for Athabasca properly pointed out. It seems that the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs was seeking a withdrawal of broader proportions than that. Perhaps the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap could clarify the situation.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, this is getting to be rather repetitive. I appreciate the comments made by my friend from Athabasca praising himself. I was brought up to think it is better to receive praise from others. However, that is another matter.

I must admit that when the exchange occurred we were trying to determine why this particular firm or family received \$5 million when our information was that everyone recommended against it. Then an Hon. Liberal Member indicated there had been substantial political contributions made by the firm to the Progressive Conservative Party. It was then the thought occurred to me, and in retrospect I wish it had not, that there might have been some kickbacks. I guess I hurled out the thought, which I probably should have kept to myself, that kickbacks seemed to be involved.

Knowing my hon. friend, the Deputy Prime Minister, I certainly had no hesitation in withdrawing the statement as it might have applied to him because I know that is certainly not the case. Then the Cabinet got edgy and I withdrew the accusation against the Cabinet. Now I suppose everyone is getting edgy and one begins to think we are protesting too much.

However, just to clear the air—

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Bring yourself to it.

**Mr. Riis:**—I do not think the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead received a kickback in this matter. I do not assume any cabinet Minister received a kickback.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** This week.

**Mr. Riis:** I did not assume any back-bencher from the Province of Alberta or anywhere else received a kickback. I hope that makes it perfectly clear. Next time I am thinking along those lines I will keep it to myself. At this moment I