

house to assure them that as many millions as possible will be saved. The minister says, "We may save a million dollars, but what of it?"

Mr. McILRAITH: He did not say anything of the sort.

Mr. HOWE: My hon. friend is a past master of distortion. If he will find for me that statement in *Hansard*—

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I think the minister should retract that statement.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I have listened to the minister display his bad manners on many occasions, and I have let them pass by. Recently I read that much was made of his bad manners in the Lambton golf club, but apparently they had never seen him operating in parliament. I have never asked for a retraction in this parliament at any time, but I demand the retraction of that statement, improper and unjustified as it is.

An hon. MEMBER: There is nothing to retract.

Mr. HOWE: I made a statement of fact. My hon. friend quoted me and I defy him to show me the quotation.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Mr. Chairman, I am asking for your order and direction in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the minister stated that the hon. member for Lake Centre had misquoted him.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: That that is what he meant by the statement of distortion; that he had been misquoted and that a wrong interpretation had been given to his statement. I think the minister might explain whether I am correct or not.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Your ruling is that a statement made by a minister in this house about an hon. member that he is a master of distortion is not unparliamentary? Is that your ruling?

Mr. CHEVRIER: You cannot argue with the Deputy Speaker about his ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: I have not given my ruling. I have stated what I understood the minister had said, that the hon. member for Lake Centre had misquoted what he had said and that that was a distortion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: That is my understanding of what took place. Probably the minister can state exactly what was said by him and what he meant by his statement.

Mr. GREEN: I do not think the minister will deny that he said that the hon. member for Lake Centre was either a master or past master of distortion.

Mr. HOWE: I think I said master.

Mr. GREEN: I have no doubt that he said that in the heat of discussion, but surely a statement of that kind cannot be allowed to stand in this house without being withdrawn.

Mr. ROWE: The minister—

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE: My hon. friend laughs, but if I called him a common liar in this house I would be called to order.

An hon. MEMBER: Certainly.

Mr. ROWE: The minister said, and every hon. member except you, Mr. Chairman, must have heard him, that the hon. member for Lake Centre was a past master of distortion. If there ever was a clear-cut case of a neat way of calling an hon. member a liar and getting away with it, that would be it.

Mr. HOWE: Let me tell him what he said. He attempted to quote me, that I had said we could save a million dollars.

Mr. ROWE: What did you say?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the minister might explain what he said, and I think he should be given that opportunity.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: If you have made your ruling, I wish to appeal from it.

The CHAIRMAN: I have not given my ruling.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am asking for a ruling. Surely we have some rights on this side of the house.

The CHAIRMAN: Members of the committee on both sides of the house have equal rights. It is also my duty to direct the committee in their deliberations. The rule is that where a statement is objected to, the Chairman will give a ruling, but before the ruling is given the members concerned may be allowed to speak. I have suggested to the minister that he speak.

Mr. HOWE: I can state what I said yesterday, because I have it before me. I think the hon. member will agree with me. I have no wish to prolong this discussion. My hon.