

*Routine Proceedings*

Within the last few weeks, it has been decided that there should be a committee to pay special attention to the use of sexist terms in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** The difficulty that I am in—and I am sure that the hon. member would want to co-operate with the Chair—is that our tradition and our practices are that if somebody has offended this House or offended a member and said things that are clearly wrong, the responsibility then lies with the House to complain to the Speaker. If something is clearly wrong, the Speaker then orders a withdrawal or the member can be expelled or the member may not be recognized for a great deal of time.

• (1510)

The member in this case, as has been the practice, has apologized. Hon. members clearly feel very strongly about the matter as perhaps so does the Speaker. I cannot allow, just because this is a hard case and hard cases can make very bad law, that a practice build up of continuing the debate.

If the hon. member wants to broaden the scope of the advisory committee which has been raised as a consequence of some sexist remarks, I invite the hon. member to make representations to that effect.

The hon. member may remember that at the time when we had to deal with that, the Speaker made it very clear that there was more to this issue than just sexist remarks in this Chamber. Decorum does go beyond just sexist remarks. There can be other kinds of remarks that are equally offensive to all fair-minded and reasonable hon. members.

If the hon. member wants to make a suggestion to me that this be considered, I will take it up with House leaders. I ask the hon. member to co-operate with the Chair and not extend the debate over the actual exchange, which has been withdrawn.

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, my submission is simply this. In response to a particular incident in this House, the House has undertaken to look at the issue of the use of sexist remarks in this House as a particular case.

I request now that the House expand the purview of that committee to include racist remarks in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I certainly will take the hon. member's representation and discuss it with colleagues.

I also want to thank the hon. member for co-operating with the procedural limitations in how far I could let that discussion go, and I thank him.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Richelieu. On the same point of order? On another point of order? The hon. member has the floor.

**Mr. Plamondon:** Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of noise, so I did not hear exactly what you said. Did you say you would come back with an explanation of when the word "hypocrite" may be used and when not? Or will you ask the Prime Minister to withdraw, tomorrow?

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** What I said was that I will look very carefully what exactly was said, the context in which it was used, and I shall report back to the House.

I want to look carefully at it and I give the hon. member the undertaking that I shall do so.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

### HEALTH

#### NATIONAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, October 7 to 13, 1991 is National AIDS Awareness Week, and for the first time since its inception, this week is being recognized all across Canada. From Victoria to Newfoundland, community-based organizations and front-line workers will work to broaden people's knowledge of all the aspects of HIV/AIDS.

The fact that this week, which started as a small local initiative in 1984, has become a nation-wide event is a testament to the dedication and exhaustive efforts of all those involved in the fight against AIDS.

[*Translation*]

Still, information about what it means to have AIDS and how it is to be prevented needs to reach many more people.

This week is about awareness, getting as many people as possible to understand that AIDS affects all of us. It is about education and prevention and about the care, treatment and support for those who live with AIDS. It is about joining forces, increasing the collaboration between the spectrum of organizations that together are combatting this epidemic.